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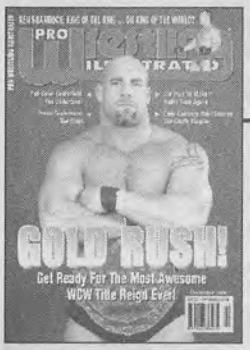


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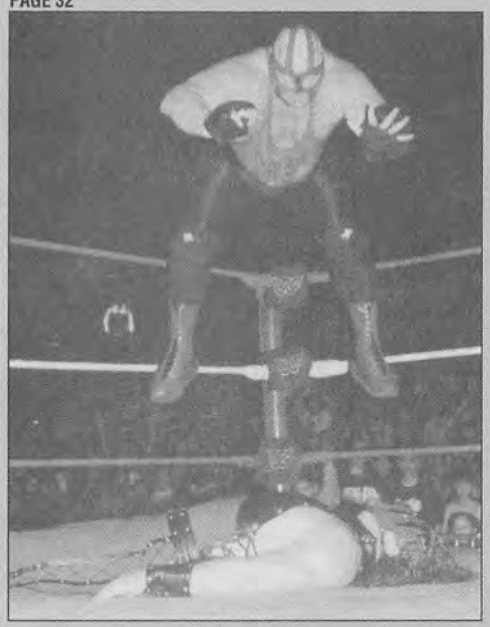

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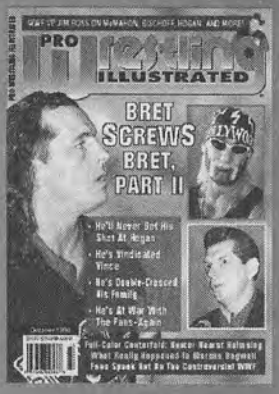
## BRET SCREWED UP



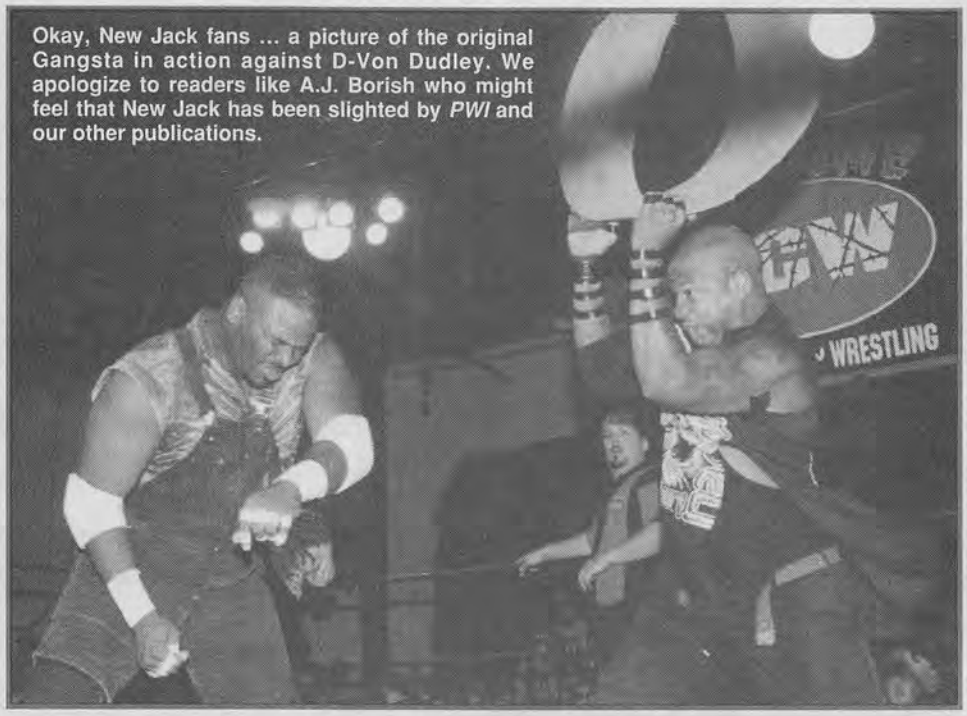

"Bret screwed Bret." Those words were uttered by Vince McMahon when he was asked if he had "screwed" Bret Hart out of the WWF title at Survivor Series. Bret may have had a case against McMahon, but what is the "Hitman's" alibi for siding with Hollywood Hogan and the black and white of the NWO?

Regardless of his reasons, *PWI* considered this move a major mistake. We plastered our opinion all over the October 1998 cover. "Bret Screws Bret, Part II" sums up our position, and most of our readers felt just as strongly.

"Bret Hart is a worm," said reader Frank Barrett of Lima, Ohio. "He's never been trustworthy. He was a worm 15 years ago. I'm not surprised he went NWO. I don't care why he did it."

"I don't know what Bret hopes to gain from being with NWO Hollywood," wrote Rochelle Jennings of Detroit. "But whatever it is, I doubt he'll get it."

Frank Sbarra of New York City checked in with these comments: "Although he's great, Bret needs some help winning matches in WCW. Making enemies with the powers-that-be in WCW will not help him get ahead at all."




**Okay, New Jack fans ... a picture of the original Gangsta in action against D-Von Dudley. We apologize to readers like A.J. Borish who might feel that New Jack has been slighted by *PWI* and our other publications.**

### WHERE'S NEW JACK?

Why is it that *PWI* and none of its sister publications ever give one of the original Gangstas, New Jack, the ink he deserves? The only time I can remember New Jack getting recognition is when he jumped off the balcony of the Asbury Park Convention Center at Living Dangerously, but whenever I tune in to ECW, New Jack is doing something hardcore. Come on, guys! We need to see more New Jack!

A.J. BORISH
Natrona Heights, PA

### GRANDE WRESTLING FAN

I just got back from a Grande Wrestling Alliance card, and I'm still amazed at all the action there was! The card was held at the Blue Horizon in north Philadelphia, so no matter where you were sitting, you were very close to the ring. Some of the wrestlers were actually more talented than the wrestlers in the WWF and WCW, and there was as much violence as there was at any ECW card.

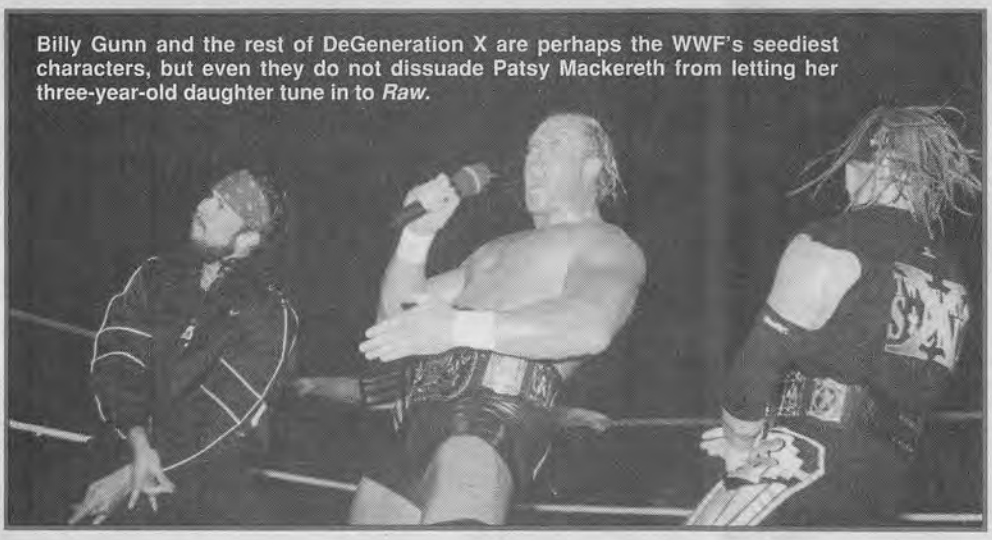
A lot of people take the great wrestling they have near them for granted. Not only is GWA cheaper than the WWF and WCW, but it has a lot more action.

SEAN MULHOLLAND
Philadelphia, PA

### *RAW* MAMA

I just wanted to say that as a mother of a three-year-old girl, I have absolutely no problem allowing her to watch *Raw Is War* on Monday nights. Not only is it entertaining (she actually sits still for two hours), but she hasn't killed anyone, started cursing, or flipped anyone the bird. I've been a fan of the WWF since I was nine years old. Since then, I've managed to get friends, family, and even our pastor hooked on the federation.

I've taken a lot of heat for letting my three-year-old watch such adult program-



Billy Gunn and the rest of DeGeneration X are perhaps the WWF's seediest characters, but even they do not dissuade Patsy Mackereth from letting her three-year-old daughter tune in to *Raw*.

ming. To these people I say this: If I wanted my daughter seeing something violent or obscene, I'd let her watch the evening news. The World Wrestling Federation has been entertaining me since I was a kid, and that's something I definitely want to pass on to my daughter.

PATSY MACKERETH
Nicholasville, KY

## "T" AS IN TALENT

Add another talent to the list of Booker T's skills. In addition to his incredible athletic ability, awesome muscularity, time-tested charisma, and sharp focus, he has a sharp intellect.

That article comparing Chris Jericho to Doink the Clown was brilliant, biting, and great ("Booker T: 'Chris Jericho Is Doink Without The Makeup!'" September 1998). Wouldn't it be great if Booker had a column all his own in which he could vent on the wrestling scene monthly?

I would read it. I think thousands of other fans would as well.

RAY GUIGO
Marblehead, MA

## THE BEST DESERVES THE BEST

Why did the WWF change the look of the World championship belt? It looks kind of cheap compared to the belt Shawn Michaels had. Steve Austin deserves the best belt possible.

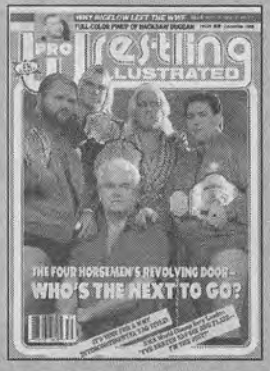
HITHEM JUDAEH
Akron, OH

## WORLD TITLE STATUS, PLEASE

I cannot understand how any fan would not enjoy watching quality wrestlers like Shane Douglas, Rob Van Dam, Taz, Bam Bam Bigelow, Sabu, or Chris Candido at their best.

*(Continued on page 54)*

## 10 YEARS AGO IN PWI




**The cover of the December 1988 issue featured The Four Horsemen. Back then, members of the supergroup didn't have much in the way of job security. After all, Ole Anderson had been dumped in favor of Lex Luger, who was booted to make room for Barry Windham. We got Windham, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, and J.J. Dillon to stay still long enough for our cover shot, but infighting and other problems within the group left us ready to bid Windham adieu at any moment.**

**Elsewhere in the magazine: Hacksaw Duggan was featured in the centerfold ... We found out exactly why Bam Bam Bigelow left the WWF ... *PWI* eulogized the late Bruiser Brody ... We also called for the WWF to create an Intercontinental tag team title ... Precious spoke in detail about her problems with Kevin Sullivan in "Press Conference."**

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# RINGSIDE

**With Bill Apter**

**PAUL BEARER** HAD a pretty good summer. On June 28, he guided **Kane** to a WWF World heavyweight title victory over **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin**. True, Kane only held the belt for one day, but he made Bearer a "proud papa" once again when he and **Mankind** won the WWF World tag team belts from **Billy Gunn** and **Jesse James** on July 13.

"After more than 20 years in this sport, I finally feel fulfilled," Bearer told me. "The only major accomplishment left for me at this point of my career is to win the *PWI* Manager of the Year Award. Hell, look at what I've done this year. I've managed a WWF champion and the World tag team champions. My friends, when the balloting begins, I urge you to do the right thing and give Uncle Paul his just reward!"

This might be your year, Paul. Your toughest competition just might be **Head.**

By the way, The Nation's **D-Lo Brown** says that Bearer owes him a major thank you. "If it wasn't for me, his guys wouldn't be champs," Brown told me. "I frog-splashed that sucker **Jesse James** and gave Kane a chance to finish him off. I deserve credit for this, and I'd like to be paid for it."

**"Diamond" Dallas Page** is just as upset with himself as he is with **The Disciple** over what happened in the main event of Bash at the Beach on July 12. **Hollywood Hogan** and **Dennis Rodman**, you'll probably remember, beat Page and **Karl Malone** in that match after **The Disciple** used a "Diamond cutter" (Disciple calls his version the "Apocalypse") on Page, enabling Hogan to pin him.

"Hogan always has someone waiting to help whenever any of his

Paul Bearer was ecstatic after Mankind and Kane defeated The New Age Outlaws for the WWF World tag team title in July. Now he's calling upon you to bestow an honor upon him.

Dennis Rodman and Hollywood Hogan were laughing at the press conference at which the signing of their Bash at the Beach match with Dallas Page and Karl Malone was announced, and they were laughing after the match, too. Meanwhile, Page was furious ... with himself.

guys are about to lose," a disgusted Page said. "When I saw The Disciple at ringside, I should have had someone get **Sting** or **Lex Luger**. It was a real bad move on my part. Me and Malone will get a chance at redemption somewhere down the line." DDP did get a little revenge when he pinned The Disciple the next night on *Nitro*.

A lot of people in ECW are talking about Japanese star **Masato Tanaka**, who arrived in the promotion a few months ago. Tanaka, who made a name for himself in Japan's FMW, is out to prove that he's ECW's most dangerous competitor.

"**Sabu**, **Rob Van Dam**, **The Sandman**—they're all supposed to be legends of hardcore," Tanaka said. "But they pale in comparison to me. I go through three tables at FMW in one night and get right up, not like Sabu, who writhes in pain on the floor, begging for sympathy from the fans. I once considered Van Dam an equal to me, but all my challenges to him go unanswered. As for The Sandman, I can outbrawl and outdrink him as well. ECW is just not on the same hardcore level as FMW."

Masato Tanaka (shown in a chair-swinging battle with Mahoney) is impressing a lot of people in ECW. On the other hand, though, he's not impressed by a lot of the wrestlers he has seen in ECW.

Mars Entertainment has released a CD called *Stone Cold Metal*. The album features a number of hard rock recordings mostly picked by Austin. Some of the artists featured include **Kiss**, **Def Leppard**, **Rainbow**, **Ratt**, and **Deep Purple** ... **Dustin Runnels** is feuding with **Barry Windham** in several NWA promotions ... **Roger Anderson** and **Frank Parker**—a.k.a. **Death and Destruction**—are at war with **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** in several Southern independents ... **Sensational Sherri** is managing **Hector Guerrero** in UCW.

You hear nothing about him here in the United States, but in Japan, the

Michael Wall Street is enjoying his stay in Japan. He initially went to Japan on the recommendation of NWO Sting and is enjoying himself so much that he may not come back to America anytime soon.

NWO values **Michael Wall Street** as one of its top stars. "**NWO Sting** has been over here for a while," said Wall Street, "and he invited me to come over and check out the NWO action. I don't know if I'll ever leave. The fans treat me with respect. The people in the United States don't have the class to do the same."

Said **Masa Chono**, leader of NWO Japan: "Mr. Wall Street makes us very proud."

**Paul Ellering** has begun using a new computerized scouting system to help his new team, **The Disciples of Apocalypse**, and he says it is already paying big dividends for **Skull** and **Eight-Ball**.

"Basically," explained Ellering, "I have developed a software program where, for example, if the DOA's opponents were **The Undertaker** and **Ken Shamrock**, actual miniature duplicates would actually compete against DOA on the screen. Thus I can show my men exactly how to handle them or any given opponents under any given circumstances. To prove that this system works, I showed them the program for **The Legion of Doom** several times. Ever since I did that, they haven't lost to **Animal** and **Hawk**."

At almost every card I attend these days, I'm noticing at least one fan who looks almost exactly like a certain wrestler. I recently saw one in New Jersey who is the spitting image of **Steve Austin**. In Michigan, there is a man who is a dead ringer for Hollywood Hogan.

If you think you're a lookalike for a particular wrestler, we'd like to see a photo of you, and we might even publish it in *PWI*. Photos must be of good quality, and don't forget to include your name, address, and telephone number. Send them to: Wrestler Lookalike, c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Plus, if something interesting or unusual happened to you because you look like that particular wrestler, send us details of that as well! Photos are nonreturnable and become the property of *PWI*.

That's all for now. I'll see you at ringside! □

Do these three men look like computer wizards? Skull and Eight-Ball might not be, but the man in the middle, manager Paul Ellering, is. He says he is using a special software program to help his men become better wrestlers.

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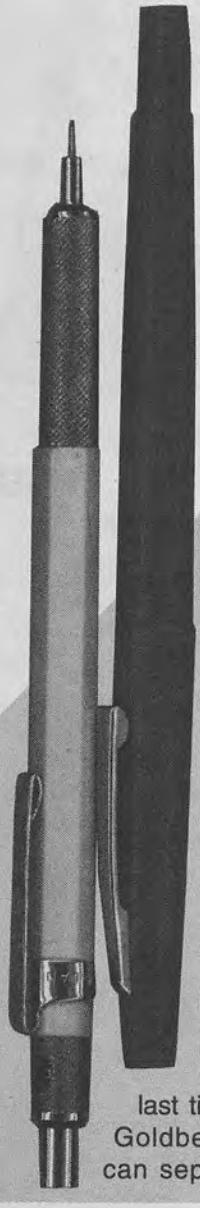
# FROM THE DESK OF...

## Stuart M. Saks

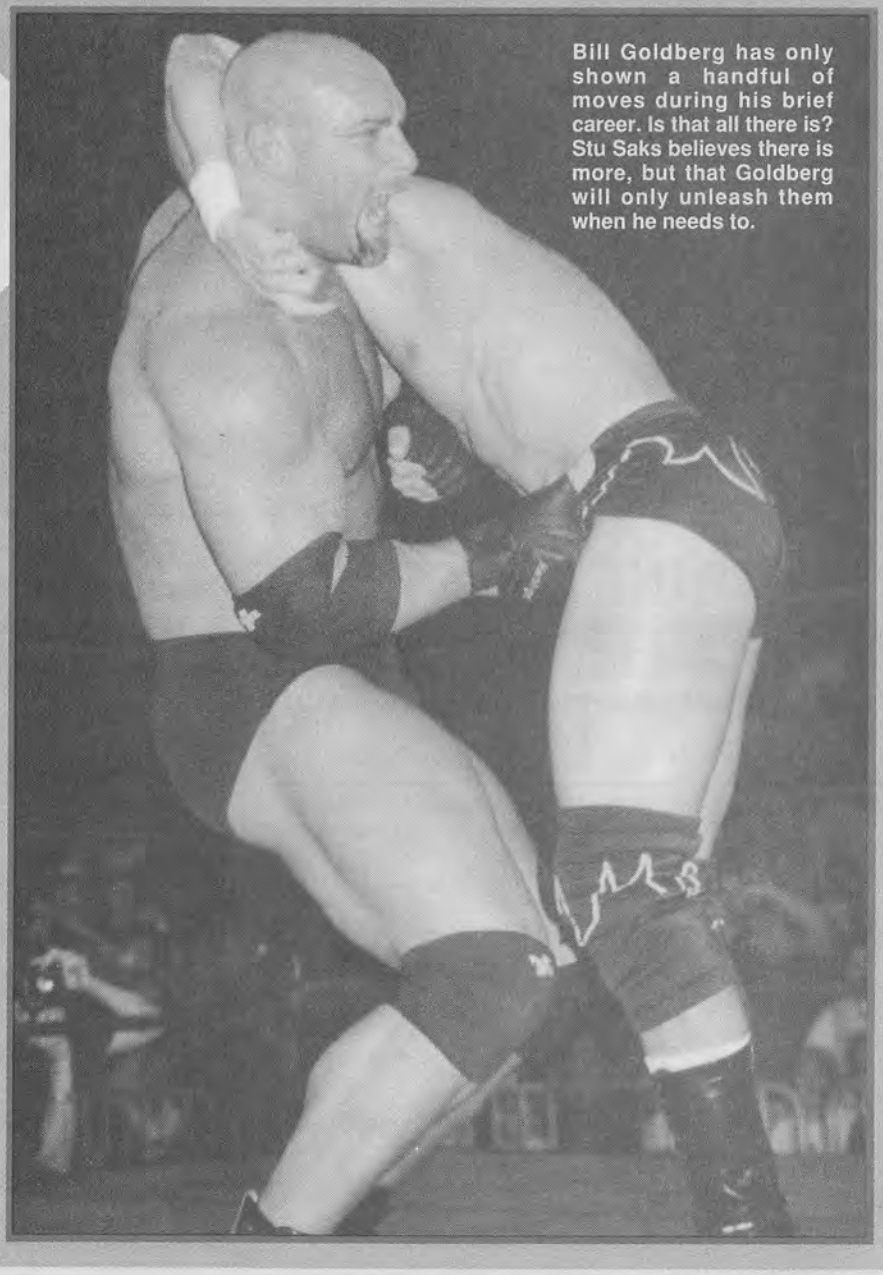
THERE ARE FAR too many unrelated thoughts floating around in my head to compose a singular-themed column, so I thought it would be a good time to, in the words of Bill Cardille, one of the all-time great wrestling announcers, "let it all hang out."

**Subject: Bill Goldberg.** Based on the reaction of the fans, you'd think that Goldberg, along with Steve Austin, are the two hottest commodities in the sport. And you'd be correct. Yet, if you surf the Internet, you'll discover that there is a growing number of people who, despite Goldberg's rapid ascent, are still unconvinced. Their complaint is that he hasn't proven that he can actually wrestle.



Guess what, folks: To be a successful competitor in this sport, you don't have to know how to wrestle. If you can impose your will upon your opponent, overpower him both physically and mentally, and press his shoulders to the mat for a three-count, who really cares if you have mastered the subtleties of mat wrestling? The idea of this game is to win. The last time I looked, that's all Goldberg does. And if you can separate the facts from your biases, you'd admit that that's basically all a guy named Hulk Hogan did to establish himself as one of the greatest performers this sport has ever seen.

Does Goldberg have, as he insists, moves stored away for when he really needs them? There is no doubt in my mind that he does. This man can be found in one of three places: the arena, the gym, or his videotape room, where he not only studies his own matches, but those of wrestlers past and present and competitors in just about every form of hand-to-hand combat as well. As



**Bill Goldberg has only shown a handful of moves during his brief career. Is that all there is? Stu Saks believes there is more, but that Goldberg will only unleash them when he needs to.**

long as Goldberg can win with an economy of moves, the smartest thing for him to do is to keep the rest of his repertoire under wraps. That way, if and when he gets in trouble, he'll have something stored away that his opponent will not have had the chance to scout.

Don't look for the negatives with this guy. He's not going to remain undefeated forever, but he's dedicated to his craft and he deserves the benefit of whatever doubt remains.

**Subject: Hollywood Hogan vs. Bill Goldberg.** A lot of people I've spoken to are relating Goldberg's title victory over Hogan to Hogan's WWF World title victory over The Iron Sheik in 1984. While this match may indeed have ushered in a new era in wrestling history, as did Hogan's victory over the Sheik, I think the better analogy would be The Ultimate Warrior's World title win over Hogan at WrestleMania VI.

The Iron Sheik was essentially the bridge between two eras. He served the same role Ivan Koloff did as the middle man between the Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales title reigns. He was not, however, a major player. Isn't it a lot more dramatic when one era ends and another begins in the same instant?

Now, I don't mean to write Hogan off at this point. He's going to remain a factor in WCW for a while yet, but the ease with which Goldberg disposed of him and the fact that Hogan hasn't said a disparaging word about his conqueror indicates that he realizes he's been beaten by the better man.

He may never salute Goldberg, as he did Ultimate Warrior after their WrestleMania VI bout, but you sense that he understands that the torch has been passed.

**Subject: Steve Austin vs. Vince McMahon.** McMahon is smart. He's used his feud with Austin to revive the WWF, yet he hasn't had to put his body on the line in that one-on-one encounter everybody thought would have happened by now. Sure, he's been threatened, stunned, shoved, and even thrown into a lagoon, but that's not the same as putting yourself in a situation where a master like Austin can methodically rip you apart.

The WWF is still riding the momentum of the feud's undercurrents, which is a perfect situation. When needed, McMahon can pull out his trump card (an actual match) and stir things up a bit.

**Subject: Karl Malone and Dennis Rodman.** They tangled (literally) in the NBA finals, they fought at Bash at Beach, they really don't like one another. But Malone and Rodman have something in common. On July 12, the same day as Bash at the Beach, Malone signed a contract with Rodman's agent, Dwight Manley. Go figure.

**Subject: Eric Bischoff and Time Warner.** Eric Bischoff has obviously been given a great deal of financial leeway by the higher-ups at Time Warner. For the most part, he's used his liberal budget wisely, signing the talent he's needed to make WCW a highly profitable entity within Time Warner, the largest media company in the world. Make no mistake, Eric Bischoff made the decisions his predecessors couldn't—or wouldn't—to bring the WCW bottom line from the red to the black (no NWO pun intended).

But even the most successful of executives working within a structure like Time Warner are subject to periodic scrutiny. Time Warner has to be satisfied with WCW's overall performance, though there might be some consternation over the fact that WCW's chief rival, the WWF, was able to turn around its business with a tighter payroll. If Time Warner execs were under the impression that WCW's liberal spending would force the ultimate demise of the WWF, thus leaving WCW in a position to lower its payroll, they have to be disappointed.

Bischoff, to his credit, has put WCW in a position in which it doesn't need to land every top star in the sport to remain the huge force that it is. He would probably be wise to start taking advantage of that fact.

**Subject: Reader participation.** We like to think of ourselves as the experts in the field of wrestling journalism, but I'm not ashamed to admit that we have our shortcomings. For example, I wish that we had maintained better records on the history of title changes through the years. We have the chronologies of most of the larger championships, but we are still missing a few. Case in point: the World Class titles in Texas. Texas was one of the hotbeds of wrestling during the height of the Von Erich brothers in the 1980s, and we'd love to be able to include the state's title history (complete with locations and dates of all title changes) in the *1999 PWI Almanac.* We just don't have complete information. If any of you can help us out with that, or can add to our supercards results section, or provide any other information for the *Almanac* that is currently lacking, we'd be very appreciative.

**Subject: A sign of the times.** I went to a Mets-Phillies game at the Vet and saw a fan in front of the Phils' dugout with a sign that read "Piazza Fears Goldberg." Across the street from the stadium, a guy was selling T-shirts of Phillies players ... and Austin 3:16. □

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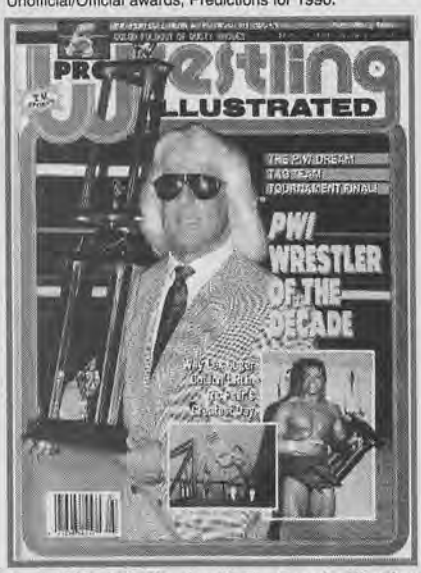


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**November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me."** Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.

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**December 1996: The Truth Hurts: Hulk Hogan Is Right!** Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Undertaker-Bearer-Mankind, Sting, Ahmed Johnson, Col. Parker.
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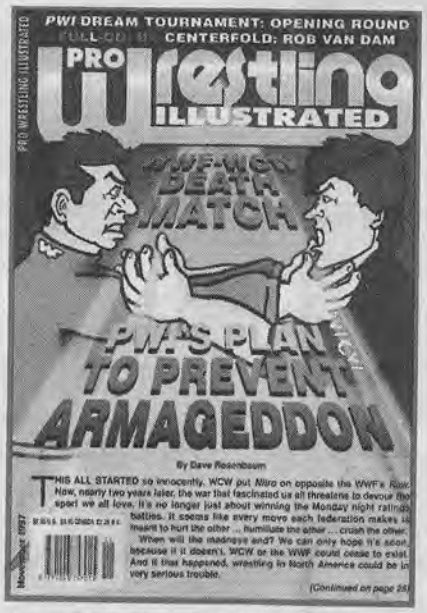
PWI DREAM TOURNAMENT: OPENING ROUND
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
DEATH MATCH
PWI'S PLAN TO PREVENT ARMAGEDDON
By Dave Rosenbaum
THIS ALL STARTED so innocently. WCW put Nitro on opposite the WWF's Raw. Now, nearly two years later, the war that fascinated us all threatens to devour the sport we all love. It is no longer just about winning the Monday night ratings battles. It seems like every move each federation makes is meant to hurt the other ... humiliate the other ... crush the other. When will the madness end? We can only hope it's soon, because if it doesn't, WCW or the WWF could cease to exist. And if that happened, wrestling in North America could be in very serious trouble.
(Continued on page 24)

**April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity.** Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.
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# in focus

By Dave Lenker

## LET THE *WRESTLERS* WRESTLE

Let's give Karl Malone some credit for helping out "Diamond" Dallas Page in his feud with Hollywood Hogan and Dennis Rodman this summer. The "Mailman" got a lot of money for wrestling at Bash at the Beach (a reported $1-million), but he had to know he'd get pounded by the mainstream press for "stooping so low" as to battle Rodman in a *wrestling* match. That it all happened so soon after Rodman's Chicago Bulls hammered Malone's Utah Jazz in the NBA finals for the second straight year didn't help.

Malone did a reasonably good job in his first-ever professional wrestling match.

Rodman deserves kudos as well. We saw when he wrestled at last year's Bash at the Beach that he does take wrestling seriously, and this year, he evened his career record at 1-1. And remember, Rodman was not under contract to any NBA team when he wrestled this year. If he had suffered a serious injury, his chances of getting a new deal with any team would have been nonexistent.

Here's to Kevin Greene, too. He nearly *beat* The Giant, *PWI's* 1996 Wrestler of the Year (and a former WCW World champion), at Bash at the Beach '98. Greene is nearing the end of his NFL career, and he knew going into that match that there was a chance the big guy was going to end his NFL career for him. The Giant is a man to whom Sting lost dozens of times in 1996. But Greene never backed down from him.

Okay, now that all the congratulations have been handed out, a few words for WCW: Enough with the big-name athletes from other sports! Don't invite Rodman back. Thank Malone for all his help and wish him the best in his quest for that elusive NBA championship. Tell Greene to give you a call if he's ever prepared to make wrestling his full-time career.

Frankly, folks, I'd rather watch the wrestlers. You know them—the guys who are in the ring four or five nights a week the whole year round. The guys who have trained for years in an effort to become the very best in the sport. The guys who don't look at wrestling as something fun to do in the off-season.

Did you notice that Bash at the Beach featured—let's see here—no Sting match, no Chris Benoit match, and no Lex Luger match? But we did get to see Malone execute a "Diamond cutter." We also saw Malone and Rodman slap each other around for a few minutes. Big deal.

If I'm going to pay $30 for three hours of wrestling, I want to see three hours of wrestling at the highest level. I got that in such matches as Booker T vs. Bret Hart, Juventud Guerrera vs. Billy Kidman, Eddy Guerrero vs. Chavo Guerrero Jr., and Bill Goldberg vs. Curt Hennig, which was short but exciting.

But Hogan and Rodman vs. Page and Malone and The Giant vs. Greene fit into that category of "okay, considering some of the guys involved haven't had much formal training." That's the real problem with these matches. You can't reasonably expect them to be great. You hope for interesting, or not too bad.

I know WCW executives were thrilled that Page, Malone, Hogan, and Rodman all ended up on *The Tonight Show* thanks to their little feud, but I hope they were also listening when a good portion of the crowd at Cox Arena in San Diego chanted "Bor-ing!" during the slow opening few minutes of the Bash's main event.

I doubt you would have heard that chant had it been just Page vs. Hogan. You know, two full-time wrestlers.

**Dallas Page enjoyed hanging out with Karl Malone in the weeks preceding Bash at the Beach and considered him a good tag team partner, but Dave Lenker thinks WCW puts too much emphasis on attracting stars from other sports.**

## "THANK YOU, SIR! COULD YOU DO THAT AGAIN?"

I'm almost starting to feel sorry for Vince McMahon (emphasis on almost).

No matter what he does, no matter how hard he tries, and no matter how complicated his little schemes get, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin finds a way to get the best of him.

It happened yet again on July 1 in Massachusetts. Both men were there to help promote the WWF's August 8 "Footbrawl" card at Foxboro Stadium. Both agreed to take part in an arm-wrestling match aboard a barge on a lagoon. *What's the worst thing that could happen?* McMahon must have wondered. Truth is, since he is an avid bodybuilder, he probably thought he could beat "Stone-Cold." And if he didn't, at least he'd give it all he had and make it close. No shame in that.

So McMahon went face-to-face with Austin ... and stalled ... and waited ... and backed off ... and stalled some more. When he finally locked up with Austin, "Stone-Cold" trounced him. Unfortunately for McMahon, that wasn't the end of it. Several thousand fans had gathered to watch this, and Austin asked them if they'd like to see the owner of the WWF thrown into the lagoon. They gave him a "Hell, yeah!" So much to the horror of McMahon, Austin tossed him into the drink.

When McMahon finally dragged himself out of the water, Austin threw him right back in.

Call McMahon a fool for agreeing to take on Austin in such a contest if you must, but never underestimate this man's intelligence. It wasn't too long ago that a lot of us were wondering if the WWF was totally doomed. Now its TV ratings are again very good, and it is drawing great crowds to most of its events.

And have you noticed that ol' Vince has been able to steer clear of an actual match with Austin? A few months ago, I thought an Austin-McMahon pay-per-view match was inevitable. Some of the people to whom I talked had it pegged for as early as SummerSlam. But McMahon has shrewdly manipulated such stars as Mankind (and Dude Love), Kane, and The Undertaker into going after Austin at full speed.

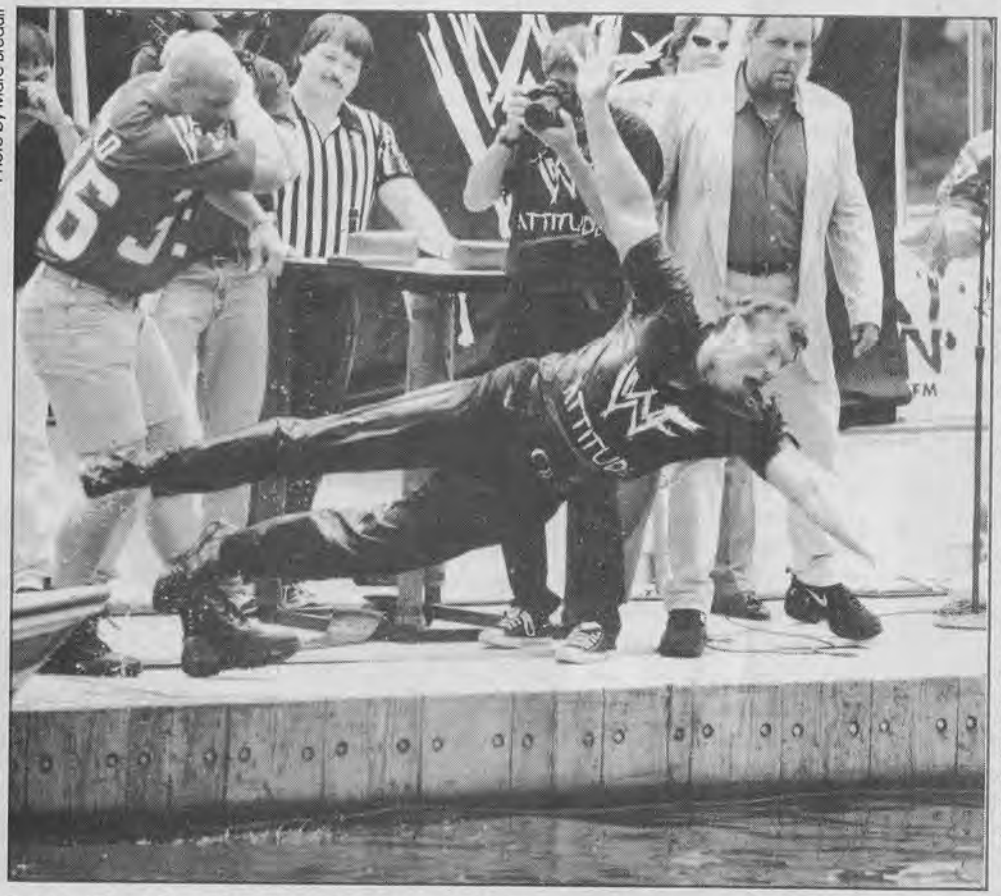
Okay, so Undertaker hasn't targeted Austin on behalf of McMahon, but it was McMahon who started the problems between them. It was McMahon who convinced Kane to put in writing that he would set himself on fire if he lost to Austin at King of the Ring. Had he not done that, Undertaker probably wouldn't have saved his half-brother by smashing Austin with a chair at the pay-per-view.

Since Undertaker did what he did, Austin hit him with a "Stone-Cold stunner" the next night. And because he did that, 'Taker dressed as Kane and beat Mankind the *next* night and thereby became the top contender to Austin's title. Suddenly, we had ourselves a full-blown feud.

McMahon may not like Undertaker, but he doesn't loathe him as much as he loathes Austin and the image he projects. He'd gladly take him as WWF champion over Austin. Plus, if the Austin-Undertaker feud lasts a long time, maybe Vince will never have to wrestle Austin.

Smart man, that McMahon. □

Photo by Marc Brecault



**See ya, Vince! Steve Austin humiliated Mr. McMahon again at an arm-wrestling match this summer. After beating him, "Stone-Cold" twice tossed him into a lagoon. At least McMahon hasn't had to wrestle Austin yet.**

# off the top rope

by Brandi Mankiewicz

*If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:*

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**TopRopePWI@aol.com**

***(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)***

*I SUBMIT TO you this month's column with a black band around my wrist and a veil over my face. Two events, both in WCW, have me gnashing my pearly whites in utter despair. The Wolfpac turns good and Goldberg takes the WCW World heavyweight title belt from Hollywood. Oh, the humanity! The horror!*

*I know there are many stages of grief, but I have yet to reach the acceptance phase. The idea of "Big Sexy" playing to the masses and "Da Berg" donning the same gold strap that many more deserving and much more legendary stars have worn should be enough to depress any true wrestling fan.*

*Well, at least I still have the beautiful chaos stirred up by DeGeneration X to warm my black heart. Or do I? That issue will have to be dealt with at a later date. A columnist can only handle so much angst at one time.*

*I may be in mourning, but I am still your champion.*

Dear Queen Brandi:

Do you even have a clue as to who "The Heartbreak Kid" Shawn Michaels is? Let me tell you. He's the showstoppa, the main-eventer, the headliner, the icon that can still go, a three-time WWF champ. So don't you forget it. Now you can talk about your good looks (who knows what the heck you look like?), but you can't back up what you say. We all know what HBK looks like, and we all know what he has accomplished. Why should we listen to you? I think you, Ms. Mankiewicz, should be a comedian.

EDDIE NOURI
shawnmhcls@aol.com

**Eddie:**

**I knew that the minute "HB-I'm-okay" reared his less-than-pretty head on WWF television, you short-attention-span fans would be spouting off on his greatness. Not only would "Yawn's" ego not allow him to stay away out of the spotlight for more than a few months, but he could not even stay faithful to his edict from last year that all fans could kiss his overly exposed rear end. So much for his convictions. They headed south. Michaels cannot live without the adoration of the minions of lemmings who will leap off "Find Your Smile Point" with him in a show of pathetic loyalty.**

Dear Brandi:

I think that no matter what the *PWI* staff says, a new version of The Four Horsemen would be the best thing for wrestling. Back when the Horsemen were in their prime, fans loved 'em and wrestlers feared 'em. What do you think?

ISAIAH KONDAS
isaiahkondas@juno.com

**Isaiah:**

**Any formation of the Horsemen without Ric Flair is a farce. Granted, the group was losing its luster with him at the helm, but you cannot rebuild Frankenstein's monster without the head. Sure, Arn Anderson was the soul of the group, but his presence is not enough to keep it going. Besides, WCW would rather that fans forget the "Nature Boy" for the time being. Why tie a string around the fans' fingers reminding them of Flair? Move on. Buh and bye!**

**He's back. Poor Shawn couldn't handle the lack of attention, so he hustled on back to the WWF, bad back and all. Guess what, Shawn! I didn't miss you.**

I hope you're all having a good time booing Rocky Maivia and making up all those nasty chants about him. You're not hurting "The Rock." You're only making him stronger.

Dear Brandi:

I think that Rocky Maivia is the best wrestler in the WWF. People in the crowds saying "Die, Rocky, die!" and "Rocky sucks!" don't know what they are saying. I think it's time to show this great wrestler some respect.

BILL MacMAHON
ABamra1297@aol.com

**Bill:**

**The day fans show a true superstar a consistent level of respect is the day Satan orders a parka. These fickle ones change their loyalties every day. When Maivia was the blue-chip hero, they booed him. When he turned bad, fans saw the potential, and acceptance started coming his way. Now "The Rock" is showing his true character and the fans are put off yet again. They can't smell what "The Rock" is cookin'. They're too busy trying to figure out in which direction the wind is blowing.**

Dear Brandi:

I would like to get a few things off my chest. Is Hogan as dumb as he looks? Bret Hart has him sucked in if Hogan thinks Bret is his friend. The best way to know your enemy is to become his ally. When Bret is ready, he will crush Hogan and prove he is the best.

LEN NELSON
Victoria, British Columbia

**Len:**

**What a ridiculous theory. Bret already had drawn the ire of Hogan when he entered WCW and cost him the World title at Starrcade. Sidling up to Hollywood was a move done partly out of pragmatism and partly out of desperation. Hart knew that fan favorites in WCW drop like flies, so he went NWO. Lex Luger and Sting did the same thing, but due to a variation in the color scheme (white vs. red), they were accepted for their defection and, in turn, defaced a once-fine wrestling clique. Hart and Hogan's partnership is predicated on pure business and power.**

Dear Brandi:

The Ultimate Warrior is by far the best wrestler ever. I am extremely happy to see that he is going to make a return. Why do you hope that he is back in wrestling for only a short time? Personally, I think he will be the one to beat Goldberg for the WCW title. You must give him credit for what he has done. Unlike you, I think that he will have a long tenure in WCW and many more World titles.

NICK BOSIAK
Denver, NC

**Nick:**

**By the time this column sees print, The Ultimate Warrior probably will have debuted in WCW. Problem is, will he still be there? The painted-face megalomaniac will be looking out for number one at all times during his tenure. Look for it to be short—one year at the longest. I am resigned to the fact that despite the hype and all the attention he will receive, sadly, it will not be enough to feed his titanic ego. The Warrior will likely sink faster than the ship.** □

Don't get too excited about The Ultimate Warrior's impending debut in WCW. Pretty soon you'll again be asking the question, "When do you think he'll make another comeback?"

# "NERDS!"

**You pansies just sit there readin' 'bout wrestling, but you never DO anything. Here's your chance, *punk!***

## WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. Airplane spin
2. Armbar
3. Armdrag
4. Armlock
5. Arm stretch
6. Arm whip
7. Asian spike
8. Bear hug
9. Biting
10. Body slam
11. Body tackle
12. Chicken wing
13. Choke
14. Claw
15. Clothesline
16. Cross body block
17. Double axehandle
18. Drop kick
19. Eagle split
20. Elbow smash
21. Eye gouge
22. Face rake
23. Fireman's carry ram
24. Flying body press
25. Flying clothesline
26. Flying drop kick
27. Flying elbow drop
28. Flying head butt
29. Flying mare
30. Forearm smash
31. Foreign object
32. Full nelson
33. Giant swing
34. Grapevine
35. Hair pulling
36. Hammerlock
37. Head lock
38. Head stomp
39. Heart punch
40. Hip roll
41. Irish whip
42. Knee drop
43. Leglock
44. Manager interference
45. Monkey flip
46. Overhead toss
47. Pole ram
48. Reverse chinlock
49. Rolling scissors
50. Rope burn
51. Savate kick
52. Scissors grip
53. Shoulder breaker
54. Slingshot
55. Snap mare
56. Step-over toe hold
57. Suplex
58. Surfboard
59. Turnbuckle smash
60. Wristlock

## SET-UP HOLDS

61. Abdominal stretch
62. Atomic drop
63. Avalanche
64. Backbreaker
65. Backroll press
66. Belly to belly
67. Big splash
68. Boston crab
69. Brain buster
70. Bulldog
71. Camel clutch
72. Cobra clutch
73. Cradle
74. Crucifix
75. DDT
76. Figure four
77. Flying leg drop
78. Gourd buster
79. Indian death lock
80. Neckbreaker
81. Piledriver
82. Power bomb
83. Power slam
84. Russian sickle
85. Sleeper
86. Slingshot suplex
87. Small package
88. Spine buster
89. Sunset flip
90. Superplex

## OPPONENTS

1. Big Ben
2. Ace Stevens
3. Jaeger van Dorn
4. Bodybag Jones
5. Wildfire Johnny Rage
6. Eric Darkstrom
7. Nook the Secret Weapon
8. Derek Craven
9. El Diablo Sanchez
10. Tygar Singh

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create an imaginary wrestler using this coupon or a copy of it.
2. Send it with $1 for each opponent to:

   **IWA CHALLENGE**
   **BOX 5275**
   **WILLOWICK, OH 44095**

3. See if your wrestler wins the *ACTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT* in the IWA's exclusive "Rookie Brawl."
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**"Join today... *OR ELSE!*"**

YOUR NAME *(PLEASE PRINT)*

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME *(NO PRO WRESTLER NAMES)*

Wear-Down Holds (#1-60): Choose 10. Only use a hold once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

Set-Up Holds (#61-90): Choose 5. Only use a hold once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Finishing Hold: Create your own final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown.

_____

Opponents: Mark the numbers of the men you wish to challenge.

☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10

# The Chavo Guerrero Monster

**Eddy Guerrero only wanted Chavo Guerrero to be a ruthless bad guy. But when Chavo finally went along with it, Eddy realized he had made a big—and possibly irreversible—mistake**

# YOU CREATED IT, EDDY—NOW YOU MUST DESTROY IT!

Photos by Bill Apter

Eddy Guerrero seems perplexed by what his nephew, Chavo, is saying. Perhaps "disturbed" is a better word to describe Eddy's state of mind these days. Same for Chavo.

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

*"His mind is being poisoned."*
*—Ultimo Dragon on Chavo Guerrero Jr.,* ***Inside Wrestling*** *(September 1998)*

THIS IS WHAT Ultimo Dragon feared all along: that Chavo Guerrero, after getting taunted and ordered around by his Uncle Eddy for so many months, after being ordered to cheat, interfere, gloat, and curse the fans,

Eddy is determined to prove to Chavo that he made a mistake, and that he needs to turn himself back into what Eddy believes is a true Guerrero.

would start doing it on his own. That Chavo Guerrero Jr. would become Eddy Guerrero—a bad man who does bad things and gloats about it.

That's what happened, of course. But even Ultimo Dragon couldn't have known that when Chavo Guerrero became Eddy Guerrero, Eddy Guerrero would have decided that maybe his little project was a bad idea. That maybe Chavo was better off the way he was: quiet, humble, hard-working, reluctant to take short cuts.

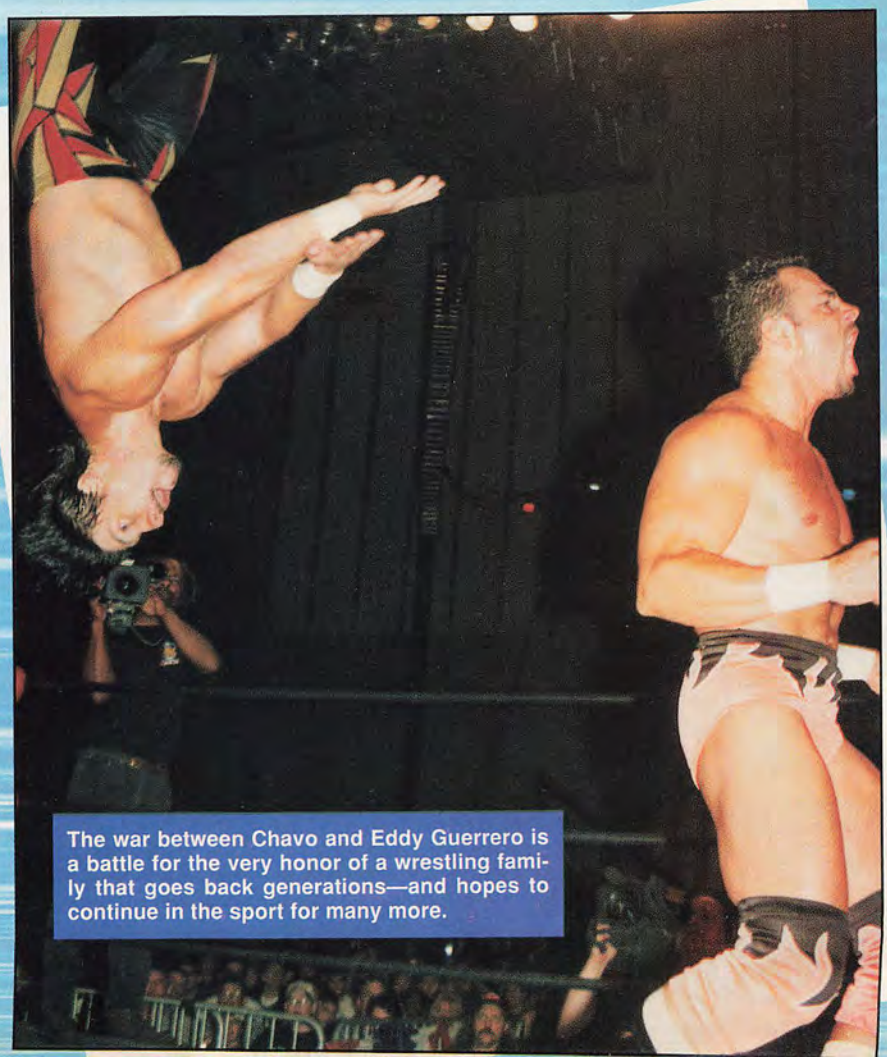
Chavo has become a monster ... and it's Eddy's nightmare.

"No, it's not what I expected," Ultimo Dragon said. "But you know what they say: Be careful of what you wish for, because you might get it. Well, Eddy's getting it over and over again from his own nephew, and now there's nothing he can do about it. At least I don't think there's anything he can do about it. The only good thing about this is that Chavo has targeted Eddy, and Eddy's the one who's feeling Chavo's wrath. Better him than anyone else.

"After all, he created this thing."

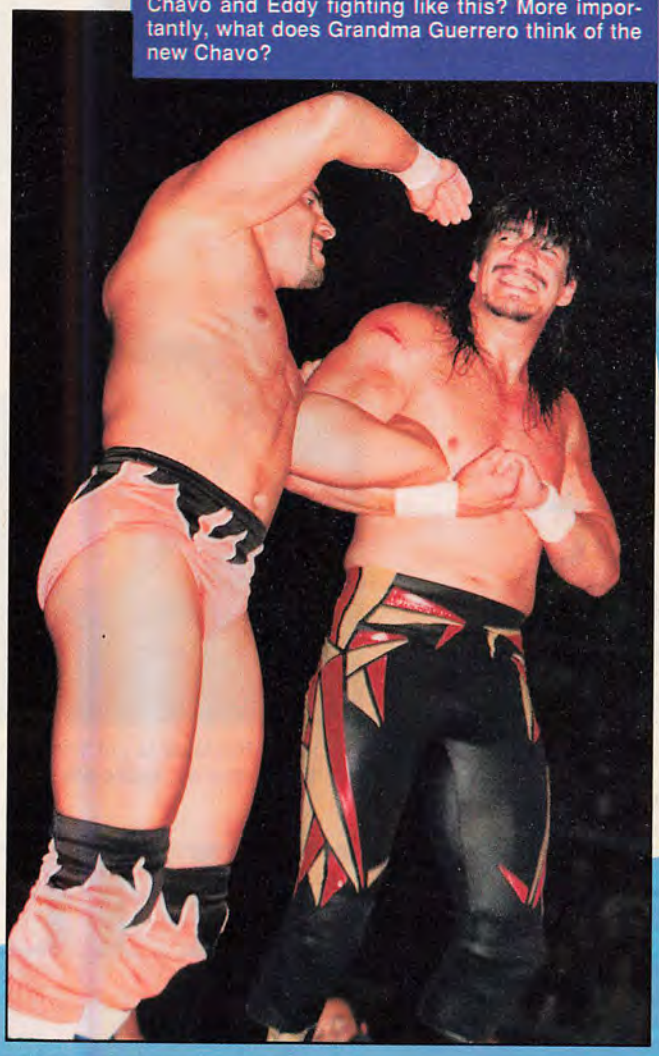
For months, Eddy was the bad guy who thrived on cheating. He tried for the longest time to get his nephew to be like him. He humiliated Chavo after every loss by telling him that Grandma Guerrero and the rest of the clan were embarrassed. Finally, Chavo and Eddy had a match where if Eddy won, Chavo would have to start doing things his way.

Eddy won. Chavo had to start doing things his way. But a few months later, Chavo's reluctance had broken down. He no longer had to be forced into doing things Eddy's way. He did it on his own.



The war between Chavo and Eddy Guerrero is a battle for the very honor of a wrestling family that goes back generations—and hopes to continue in the sport for many more.

It will take more than physical beatings for either Guerrero to convince the other of which way is the right way.



What would Grandma Guerrero say if she saw Chavo and Eddy fighting like this? More importantly, what does Grandma Guerrero think of the new Chavo?

Then came Chavo's total collapse. June 9 at *Nitro*—the night Chavo showed he was insane. Earlier in the evening, he had been crazy enough to sign for a match against then-U.S. champion Bill Goldberg. As Goldberg made his way to the ring, Chavo cackled wildly, then howled insanely. The breakdown was complete. Goldberg's physical destruction of Chavo, via the "jackhammer," came next.

"But Chavo didn't seem to mind," said Eddy, still disgusted by the memory of that match. "What happened there made me realize that maybe I had gone too far, that I had pushed Chavo too far over the edge, and that maybe it was too late to do anything about it."

Turnabout became fair play for Chavo, whose psychotic babbling and insane rambling constantly distracted Eddy. "He's crazy! Get him off of me!" Eddy screamed when Chavo attacked him during their match at The Great American Bash. A few weeks later, when Eddy was wrestling Little Dragon, Chavo came to ringside on a hobby horse and distracted Eddy. Chavo beat Little Dragon with the toy horse, then chased Eddy back to the dressing room.

There's no doubt about it: Eddy is terrified of the lunatic Chavo.

"I know," Chavo cackled, "and isn't it great? I'm so glad that Uncle Eddy showed me the light, taught me the right way to be. He's the only one I have to thank for this. He's my hero. I love you, Eddy!"

Doesn't Eddy know he's to thank for this! He also knows that if he's the one responsible for changing Chavo the first time, then he's the only person capable of changing him back to normal and turning him into a Guerrero again. He tried to avoid Chavo after losing to him at The Great American Bash, tried to move on to different opponents, but Chavo kept hounding him, kept coming out to the ring every time Eddy wrestled.

"Yeah, I know it's my fault," Eddy conceded. "And at first I didn't know what to think of the little punk, because he had definitely gone off the deep end. But now I've learned to control my demons, and I know it's my responsibility to get him back on the right track. Grandma Guerrero is going to be proud of what I do to Chavo. I'm bringing Chavo back."

That won't be easy, and their wild hair vs. hair match at Bash at

*(Continued on page 56)*

press conference...

Lex Luger has tried to cut The Giant down to size, but even "The Total Package" has found that it's not that easy to do, especially when The Giant is in a foul mood.

# THE GIANT

*WHEN THE GIANT made his WCW debut in 1995, a lot was expected of him. But not many thought his reign of destruction would earn him* PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED'S *Rookie of the Year* ***and*** *Wrestler of the Year awards* ***and*** *the WCW World title all by the end of 1996. After seeing what he accomplished in his first year, many people couldn't help but wonder,* ***How dominant will this guy be in a few years?***

*Back then, Sting, Ric Flair, Randy Savage, and Lex Luger all tried to take the World belt from the 7'4" rookie, only to be hoisted 10 feet in the air and choke-slammed into the canvas for their efforts. If not for the combined effort of Hollywood Hogan, Scott Hall, and Kevin Nash, The Giant could well be into his second year as WCW World champion today. He's not. More surprisingly, he's not nearly as dominant now as he was two years ago. And he's now allied with two of the three men who prematurely ended his only World title reign.*

*When the Nash-led Wolfpac split from what has become known as NWO Hollywood, Hogan quickly realized he'd need some heavy artillery to watch his back. Behind closed doors, Hogan and Eric Bischoff hammered out a deal with The Giant, who turned his back on his tag team partner, Sting, to rejoin Hogan's NWO. That decision surprised many observers, who felt that the big man was primed to become the top contender to Hogan's belt.*

*PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED sent Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker, Senior Writer Dan Murphy, and Contributing Writer Matt Brock to meet with NWO Hollywood's most physically imposing recruit—and to try to make sense of a man whose career seems to have lost direction.*

**DAVE LENKER:** Okay, Giant, you strike me as a man who likes to get straight to the heart of the matter, so let me be blunt. What made you give up the WCW tag team title and go back to Hollywood Hogan's NWO after all the headaches Hogan has caused you in your career?

**THE GIANT:** ***(Thoughtfully strokes his chin and puffs on a cigarette. He is completely silent for several minutes.)***

**LENKER:** Uh, you know, for a press conference to work, we really need, you know, answers.

**DAN MURPHY:** I think he's still trying to figure things out, Dave.

**GIANT: What I'm trying to figure out is if it would be worth the hassle I'd get if I choke-slammed your worthless carcass through this table!**

**LENKER:** Okay. Blunt is out.

**MURPHY:** Let me try. Giant, you and Hollywood Hogan have never been particularly close. He and the rest of the NWO have sneak-attacked you, laid you out, even spray-painted the letters "N-W-O" on your back. How have you been able to get past that and rejoin an organization that sold you out in the not-so-distant past?

**GIANT:** ***(The Giant takes another long drag from his cigarette. He exhales the blue smoke, grinds the butt into a nearby ashtray, and immediately lights another cigarette before answering.)*** **Now I'm trying to figure out if I can wrap my right hand around both of your scrawny necks and put you both through this table at the same time.**

**MATT BROCK:** Let me handle this, kids. I was getting exclusives from Killer Kowalski, Moondog Mayne, and Pampero Firpo before you boys were out of diapers. Giant, what's on your mind?

**GIANT: Now that's a little better. Instead of asking loaded questions, the old man knows enough to let me dictate the course of the interview. What's on my mind right now is a bunch of supposed "athletes" trying to take food off my table and turn what I do in the ring into a joke. That's what's on my mind.**

**LENKER:** I assume you're referring to Kevin Greene.

**GIANT: That's right. The only credentials that bleached-blond tackling dummy has is that he's friends with the right people. What gives him the right to wrestle, if you want to call it that, one month out of the year and still get a match against me at Bash at the Beach? I don't have a heck of a lot of respect for Goldberg, but at least that guy has spent almost a year now concentrating on wrestling. Between Greene, Dennis Rodman, and Karl Malone, I feel like a lot of outsiders are trying to step on my toes, and I don't like it a bit.**

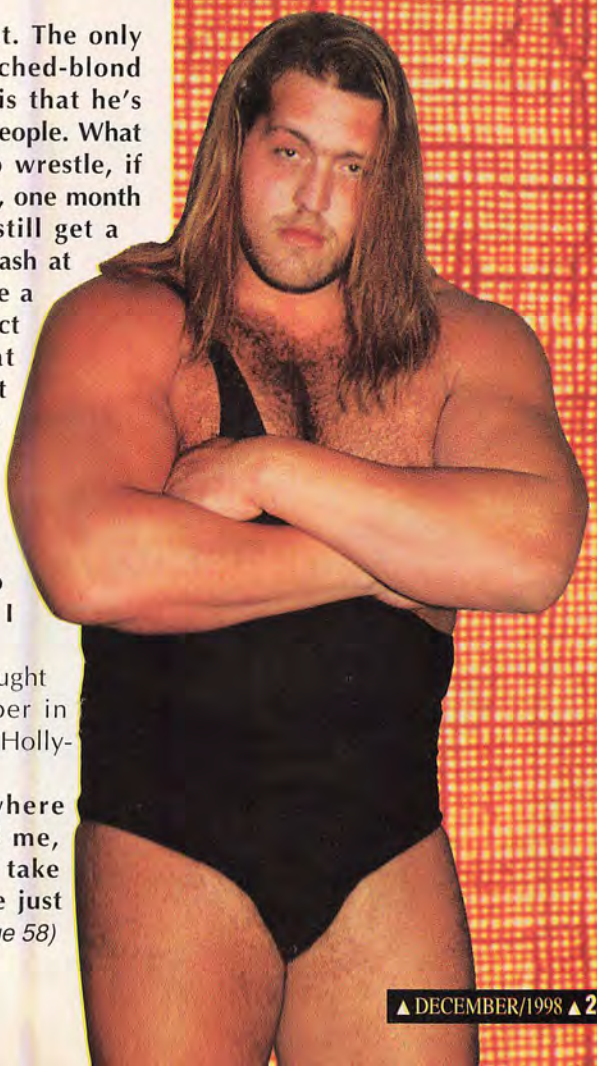
**MURPHY:** But I thought Rodman was a member in good standing in NWO Hollywood?

**GIANT: I know where you're trying to lead me, and I'm not going to take the bait, hack. Let me just**

*(Continued on page 58)*

**"So Goldberg pulled off a fluke on Hollywood. Big deal. The white and black is too good for the belt to be out of the family for long. Goldberg's a little bug, and I'm a gallon of Raid."**

**Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.**

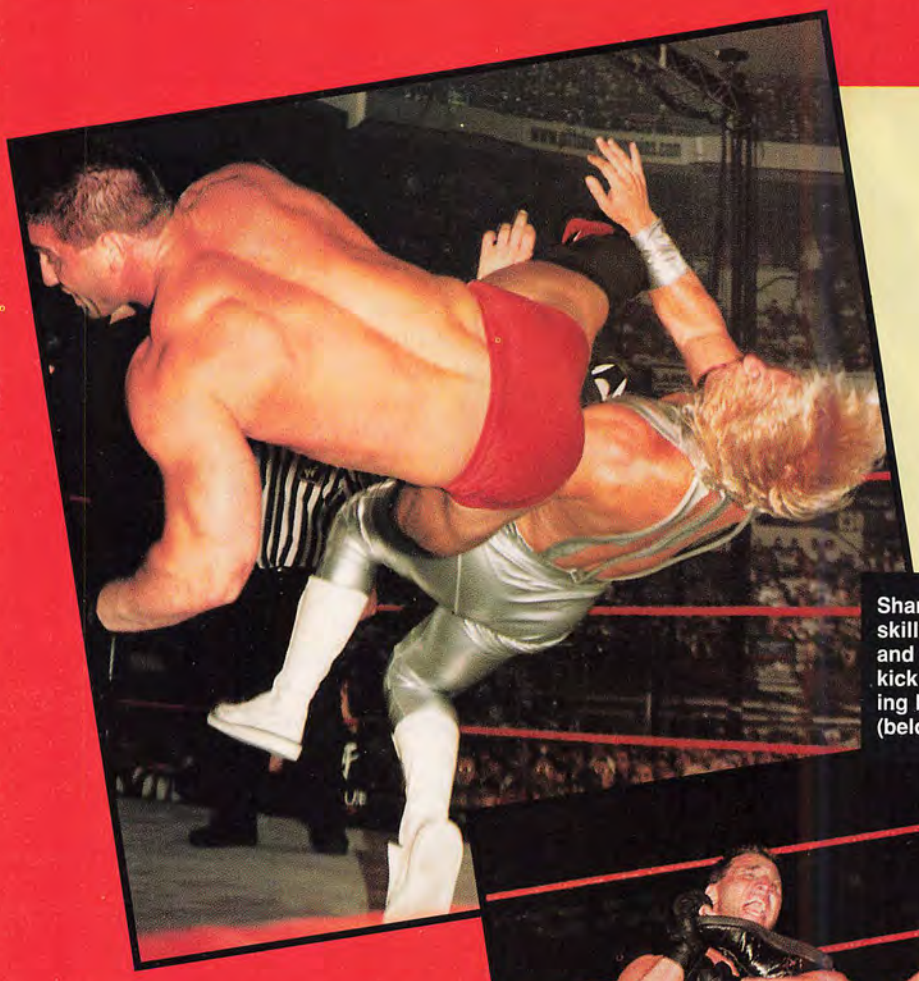


# KEN SHAMROCK:

# KING OF THE RING? HOW ABOUT KING OF THE WORLD!

Photos by Bill Apter

Ken Shamrock, you've just won the 1998 King of the Ring tournament. Go ahead and scream. But what are you going to do now? How about going after the WWF World title? It could be time.



Shamrock showed off some of his scientific skills against Jeff Jarrett in the semifinals and even caught him with a beautiful dropkick (left). He won the tournament by forcing Rocky Maivia to tap out to his anklelock (below). Now it's on to new challenges.

Ken Shamrock beat Jeff Jarrett and Rocky Maivia in one night to win the WWF's 1998 King of the Ring tournament. Then he beat former Kings Mabel, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, and Owen Hart. Does that mean the true "King Of Kings" is ready to become WWF champ?

**By Bryan Ethier**

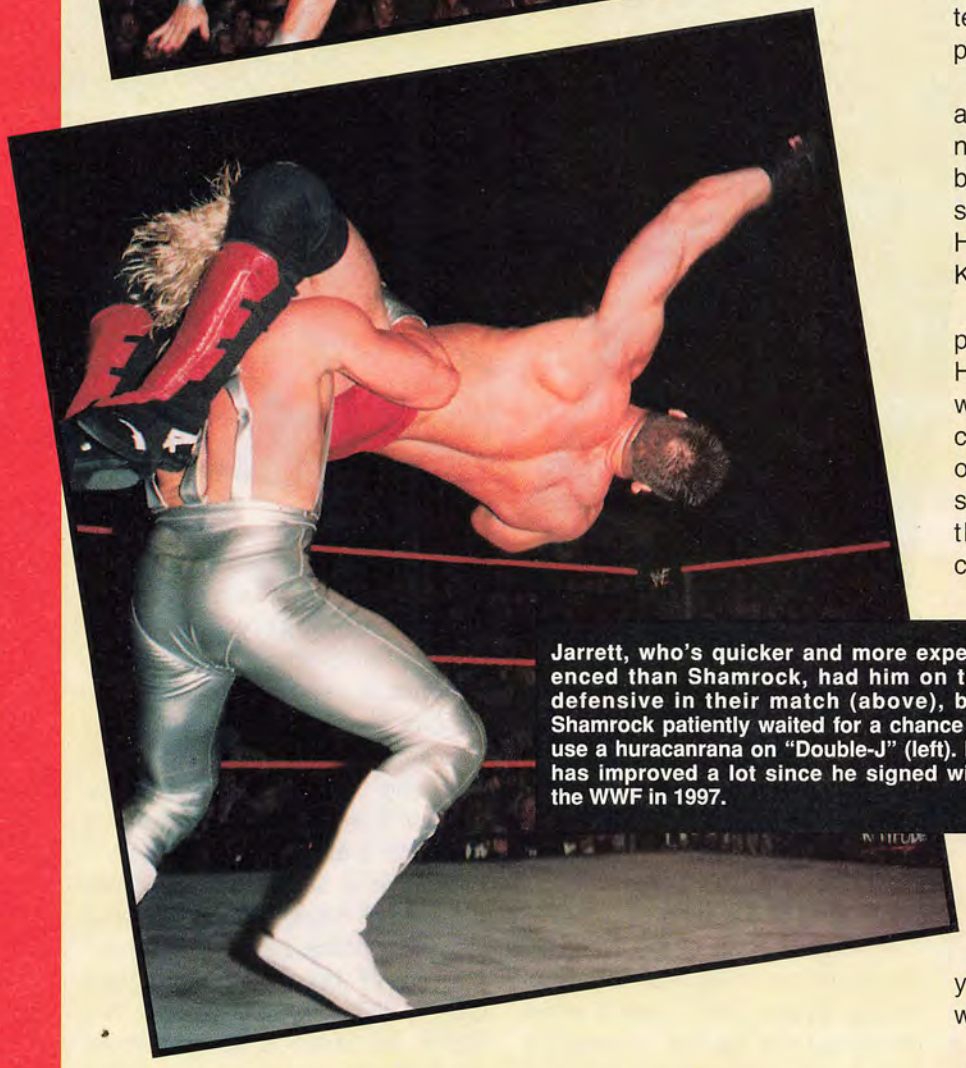
THERE ARE TIMES when the title means more than the position itself: branch manager of a one-person bank ... domestic engineer to a three-year-old Persian cat ... executive assistant for a Cub Scout troop ... WWF King of the Ring.

The 1998 King of the Ring will gladly accept his first "championship" in the WWF, even if is not the World title he has coveted for over a year-and-a-half. For Ken Shamrock, capturing this "championship" was, he hopes, the first of many successes to come.

"I told you I would take my cause to the mat to beat anyone Vince McMahon could put out there," he said. "This is just the beginning of the Ken Shamrock era."

Shamrock's win in KOTR was significant not only because he captured his first "title," but because he proved to a number of people in the business—including himself—that he no longer falls into the wrestling category of style over substance. In his semifinal win over Jeff Jarrett and his final match victory over Intercontinental champ Rocky Maivia, Shamrock used an anklelock to subdue his opponent. By patiently awaiting an opening and properly applying the basic hold, Shamrock proved he belongs among the WWF's elite.

"I have to say that I have been more and more impressed with Ken Shamrock as a technician," said WWF broadcaster Michael Cole. "When he came to the WWF, he seemed hampered by the brawling, physical style of the UFC. Over the past year, he has learned how to pace himself and how to apply holds that lead up to



**Jarrett, who's quicker and more experienced than Shamrock, had him on the defensive in their match (above), but Shamrock patiently waited for a chance to use a huracanrana on "Double-J" (left). He has improved a lot since he signed with the WWF in 1997.**

a submission win. He's a lot smarter now."

And Ken Shamrock has had ample time to ponder his fate and future in the WWF. He entered the federation just prior to WrestleMania XIII riding a wave of success after rising to the top of the UFC. WWF management decided to bring him along slowly and hoped he would develop into a superstar. In recent months, he has frequently teamed with Steve Blackman, a burly and imposing figure, albeit as unproven in the WWF now as Shamrock was months earlier.

Shamrock's even demeanor, coupled with his blue-collar good looks, quickly made him a fan favorite. But swagger and a glittering smile did not make him a rich man, and it hardly made him a top contender to the WWF's number-one prize.

But when Shamrock's personality became saltier, angrier, and nastier, his fortunes improved. He began to beat difficult opponents such as Vader, Owen Hart, Bret Hart, and Faarooq. Word was out: Ken Shamrock meant business.

"I see a man bent on hurting people now," explained Owen Hart. "For a while I thought he was just a chump who thought he could walk into the WWF and take over. But you have to take him seriously now. I don't like the fact that this punk wears my old crown, though."

Within two days, Shamrock defeated former kings Hart, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, and 1995 champ Mabel, who entered the ring at a svelte 510 pounds.

"To become the king of a nation, you first have to depose the previous monarchs," sneered Shamrock, his eyes ablaze with intensity. "You must make all challengers fear you and respect you. You must be what the people want."

Shamrock purports to have what the people want, but is he again speaking in terms of style vs. substance? It is one thing to win the KOTR title, it is another matter to defeat the world's best

ring psychologists, men such as Mick Foley, Kane, Undertaker, Rocky Maivia, and Steve Austin.

At what point in a wrestler's career does he have the experience and savvy to make the giant leap from King of the Ring to WWF World champion?

"I got nothing against Ken Shamrock," growled Austin. "But let's see him beat 'Stone-Cold.' He's a tough guy. There's no doubt about that. But I don't see him lookin' for a piece of me. I was the damn King of the Ring before, and I took the next step. He's got to show me he can do the same damn thing."

So much for Austin's perspective. Maivia, a two-time Intercontinental champ, was less critical in his evaluation of the man whose anklelock has caused him so much pain over the last few months.

"'The Rock' wishes Ken Shamrock all the success in the world," he said. "'The Rock' knows what it's like to be the new guy on the block, the new champion on the block. 'The Rock' *wants* Ken Shamrock to win and win again. That way, he'll be as cocky as a middle linebacker in a Girl Scout flag football game when I get him. Then 'The Rock' will lay the smack down on him."

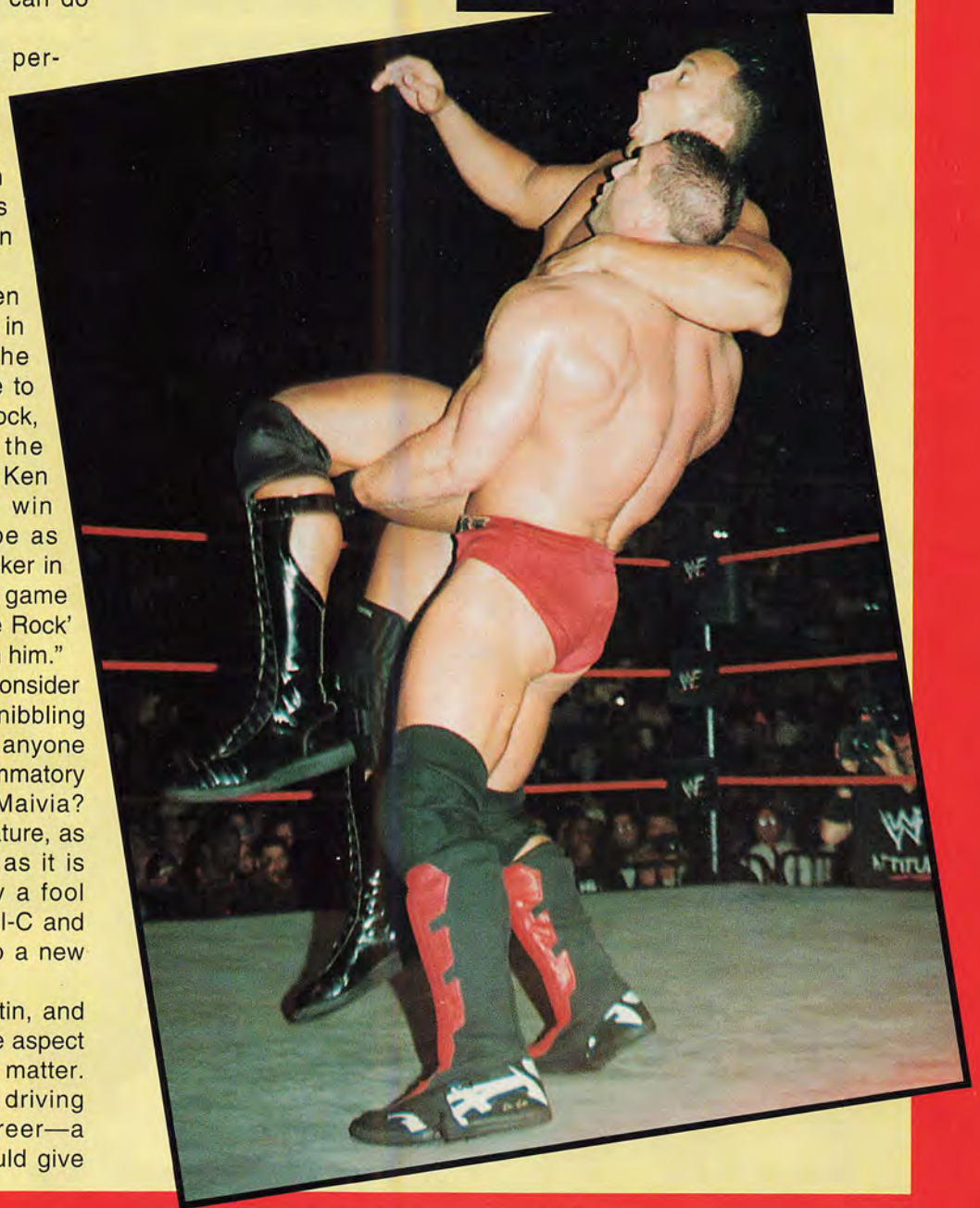
So some of his rivals consider Shamrock a Chihuahua nibbling at their toes. But should anyone be surprised by the inflammatory remarks of Austin and Maivia? Wrestling is, by its very nature, as much about psychology as it is about athletic skill. Only a fool would expect the current I-C and World champs to defer to a new "champion."

But perhaps Hart, Austin, and Maivia are only seeing one aspect of the psychology in this matter. Maybe there is another driving force in Shamrock's career—a motivating factor that could give him the fury he needs to beat down a Steve Austin.

That motivating factor is Dan Severn. Severn and Shamrock are long-time UFC rivals, and it would not be hyperbolic to call them respectful enemies. They have helped each other in the ring and have tried to cripple each other in the ring. Ironically, their choice to save each other from time to time seems born from a deep-seeded need to advance a seemingly inevitable showdown. Severn vs. Shamrock. Elway vs. Favre.

One senses that each of these insatiable competitors has something to prove to the other. It is that subconscious desire to prove himself better than Severn that might provide the intangible Shamrock needs to beat an Austin or Maivia for the gold.

With such a win, no one would question whether Ken Shamrock held an "empty" title. □



**Notice the fear in "The Rock's" eyes as he gets set up for a Shamrock side suplex. A lot of WWF wrestlers ought to be scared now that Shamrock is gaining more and more confidence.**

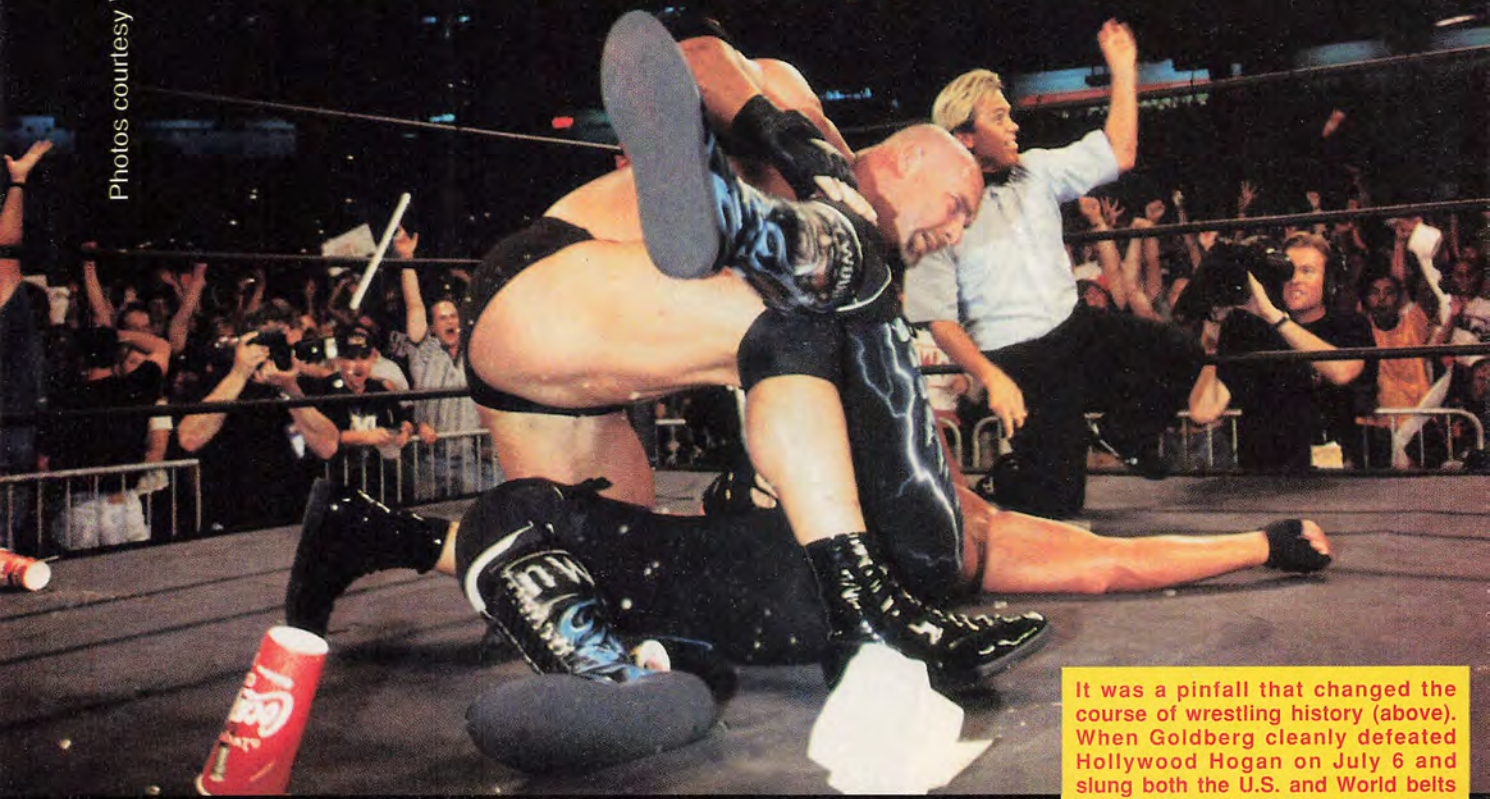
# GOLD RUSH!

## Get Ready For The Most Awesome WCW World Title Reign Ever!

**Bill Goldberg, with the mystique of a Roman gladiator, entered the Georgia Dome on July 6 and changed the course of wrestling history.**

**His World title victory was as dramatic as his 10-month ascension. There's little doubt WCW's new champ will continue his conquests**

Photos courtesy WCW



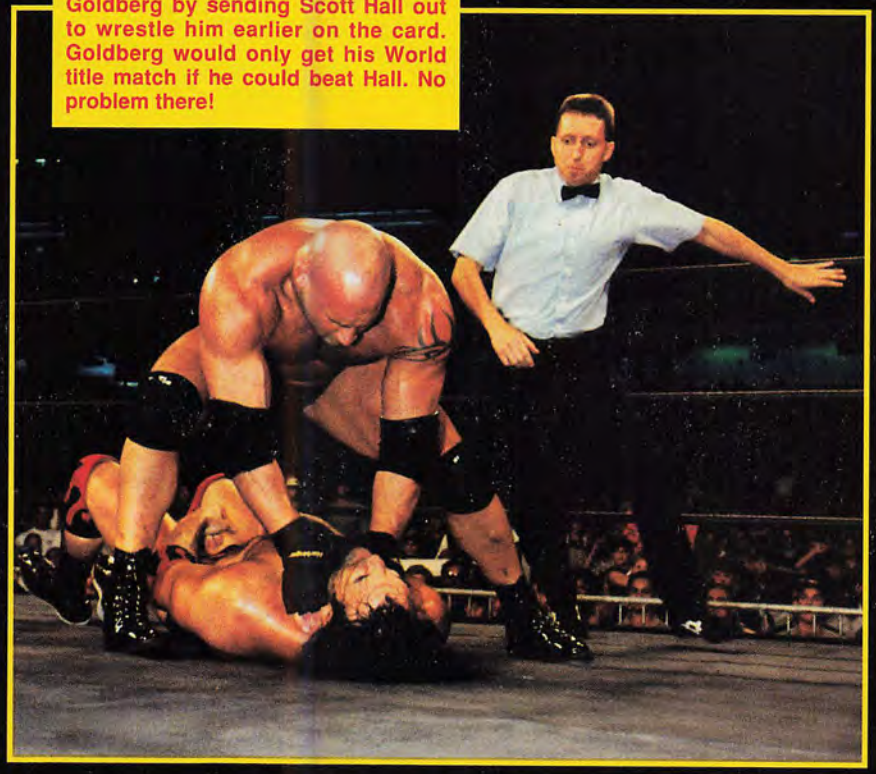
It was a pinfall that changed the course of wrestling history (above). When Goldberg cleanly defeated Hollywood Hogan on July 6 and slung both the U.S. and World belts over his shoulders (top), he officially became *The Man* in WCW.

**By Harry Burkett**

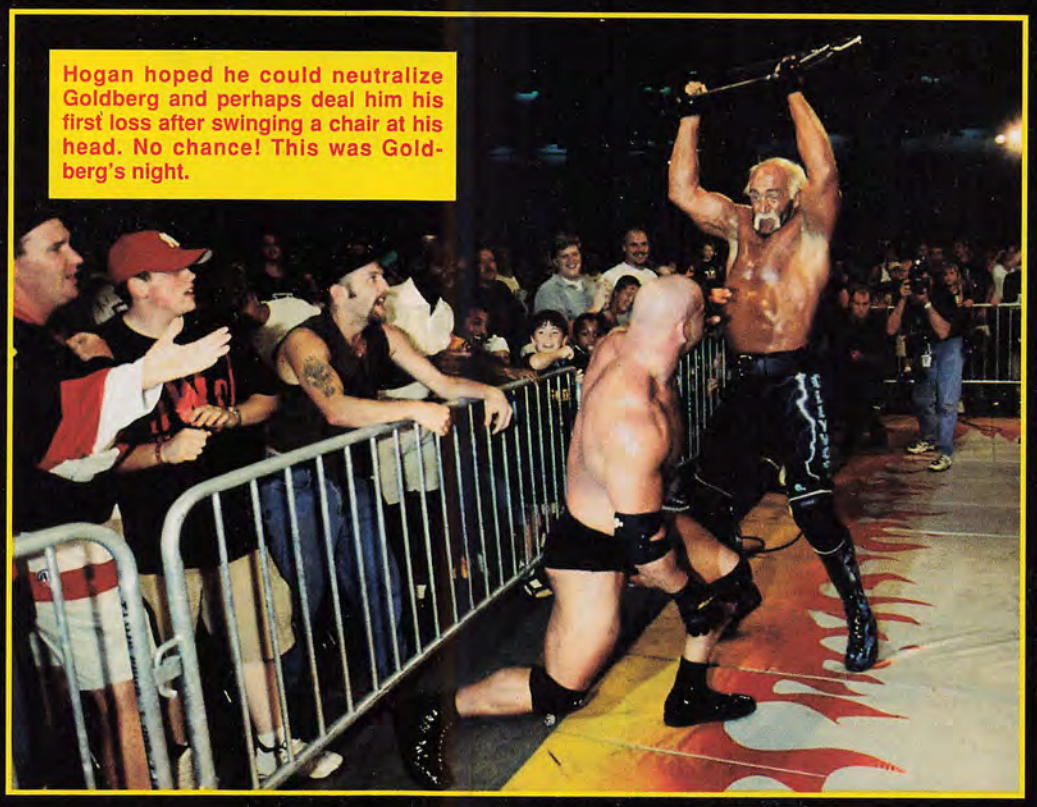
"GOLD—BERG... Gold—Berg!" reverberated throughout the cavernous Georgia Dome in Atlanta as more than 41,000 voices chanted in unison. The legend of Bill Goldberg reached new heights as he held the WCW World and United States title belts high over his head. Hollywood Hogan, now known as just another overmatched victim, quietly rolled out of the ring as wrestling's newest megastar basked in the glory of his history-making feat.

Like the tick-tock of a grandfather clock, the chorus continued: "Gold—berg ... Gold—berg!"

The majesty of the moment made it seem as if the event had been planned for months. In reality, the match had been scheduled only about four weeks prior to the July 6, 1998, event. Even at that time, Hogan-Goldberg was to be seen only by the fans at the Georgia Dome—not on live television by millions of viewers. Hollywood Hogan and Eric Bischoff tried to get a media blackout imposed on the match. They also wanted it to be a non-title bout.



Hogan thought he could avoid facing Goldberg by sending Scott Hall out to wrestle him earlier on the card. Goldberg would only get his World title match if he could beat Hall. No problem there!



Hogan hoped he could neutralize Goldberg and perhaps deal him his first loss after swinging a chair at his head. No chance! This was Goldberg's night.

All that changed on the evening of July 2, during an emergency meeting between the WCW Executive Committee and Dr. Harvey Schiller, president of Turner Sports. executive Committee Chairman James J. Dillon was flown via helicopter to a live *Thunder* telecast at the Columbus, Georgia, Civic Center to make the explosive announcement: WCW World champion Hollywood Hogan would defend his title against U.S. champion Bill Goldberg on *Nitro!*

But Hollywood Hogan had other plans.

According to Hogan, 100-plus consecutive victories with no losses–including his U.S. title victory over Raven–just wasn't enough to earn Goldberg a title shot. As a result, Goldberg agreed to wrestle Scott Hall earlier in the night with the condition that if he won the match, he'd get to challenge Hogan

later in the evening.

In his toughest test to date, Goldberg still managed to "jackhammer" a dazed and confused Hall in less than five minutes. The three-count was only a formality.

The sands in Hogan's hourglass had finally run out. It was time for him to show some guts.

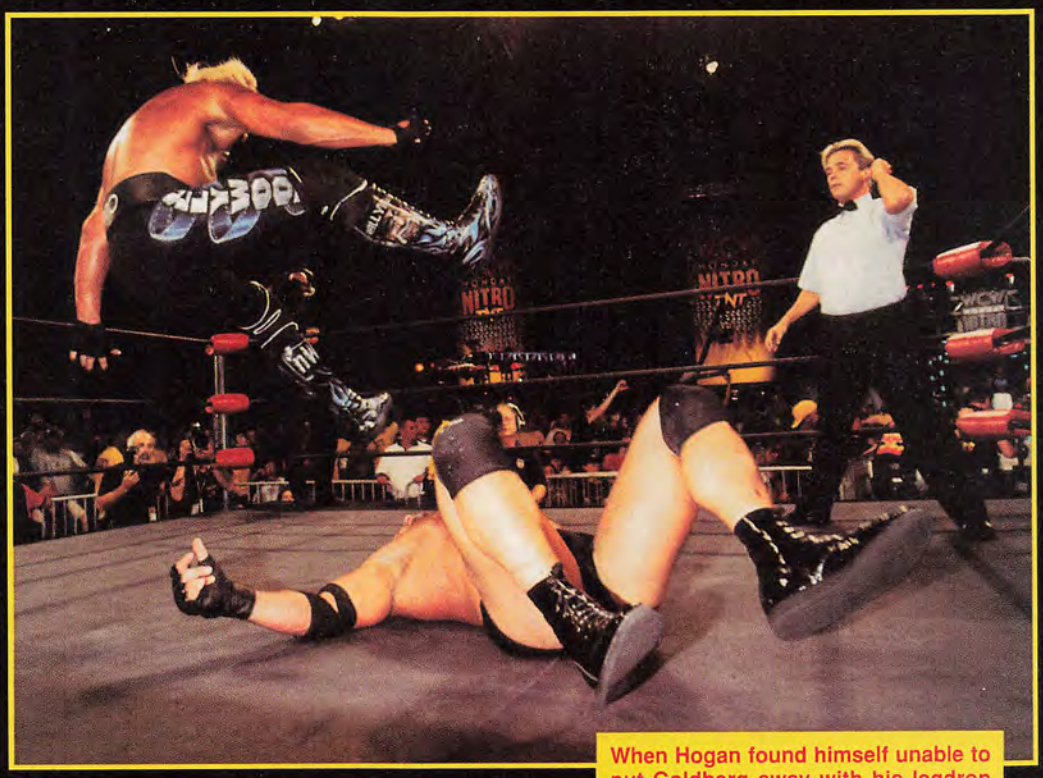
The atmosphere inside the Georgia Dome was absolutely electric. Amid the deafening "Gold—berg!" chants, the former Atlanta Falcon slowly marched to the ring for his biggest match ever, almost breathing in the pyrotechnics. Goldberg was ready for prime time.

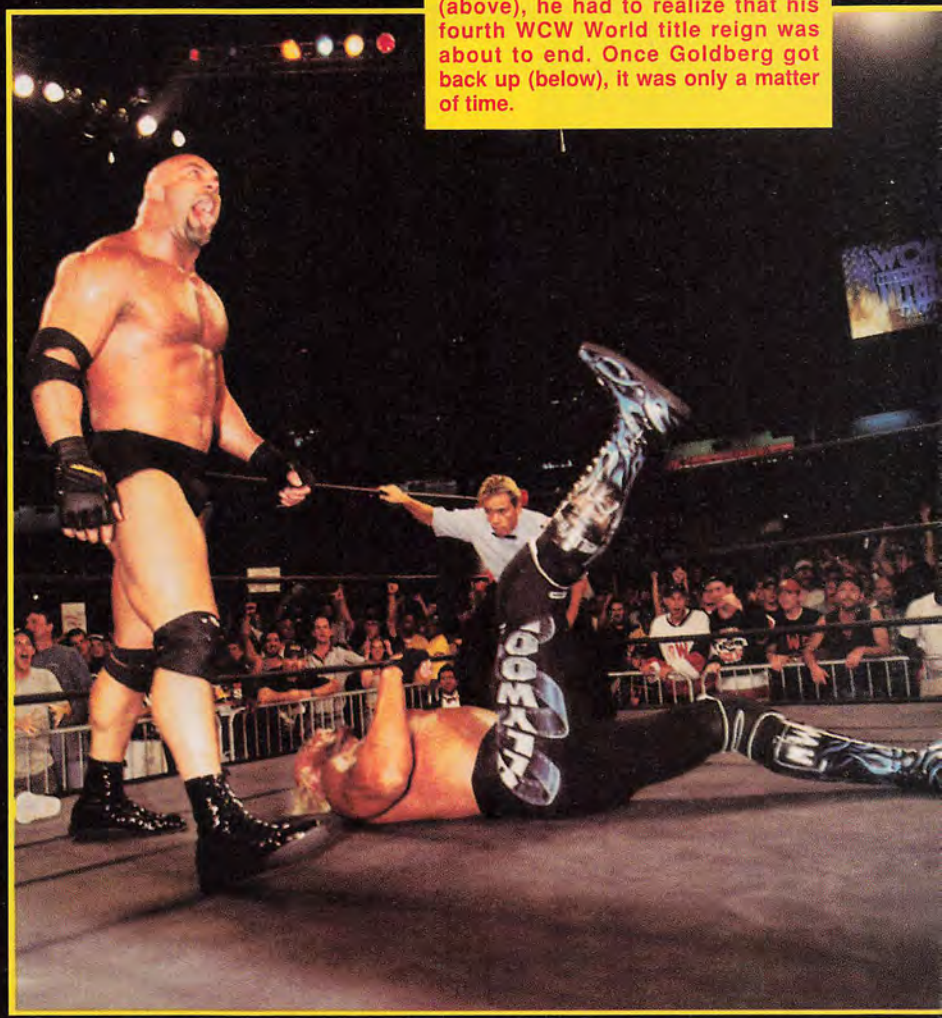
The familiar strains of NWO Hollywood's entrance music signaled Hogan's entrance. He looked a bit more scruffy and menacing than he did at the Pontiac Silverdome in 1987, but Hogan exuded the same radiance and confidence that allowed him to defeat Andre the Giant in front of more than 93,000 fans at WrestleMania III.

The past and future seemed to collide during the staredown between Goldberg and Hogan. Goldberg gained the early advantage with a headlock, then a shoulderblock. Hogan—proving he was tougher than all the Goldberg victims before him—rallied with a series of kicks and punches, grabbed the weightlifting belt from around his waist, and whipped Goldberg with it. Goldberg snatched the belt from Hogan and simply tossed it out of the ring. Hogan knew right then that he was in trouble.

Goldberg had only one mission: to walk away with the title.

A smirking Curt Hennig walked



When Hogan found himself unable to put Goldberg away with his legdrop (above), he had to realize that his fourth WCW World title reign was about to end. Once Goldberg got back up (below), it was only a matter of time.

out to assist Hogan, but was intercepted by Karl Malone. "The Mailman" delivered a "Diamond cutter" to Hennig for his trouble.

Hogan, distracted by the scuffle, turned back around and was met head-on by a Goldberg spear. The impact vaulted Hogan several feet into the air, then sent him crashing to the canvas. The building's energy level hit critical mass as Goldberg held Hogan up for a "jackhammer." After seconds that seemed like minutes, he dropped Hogan down to the mat for the pinfall win at 8:12.

The crowd reaction remained at a fever pitch for several minutes. Not one fan attempted to leave early or beat the parking lot traffic. It was Goldberg's time. In fact, for the 10 minutes or so that Goldberg and Hogan were in the ring, *Nitro's* Nielsen rating climbed to a whopping 6.9, which means more than five million household were tuned in.

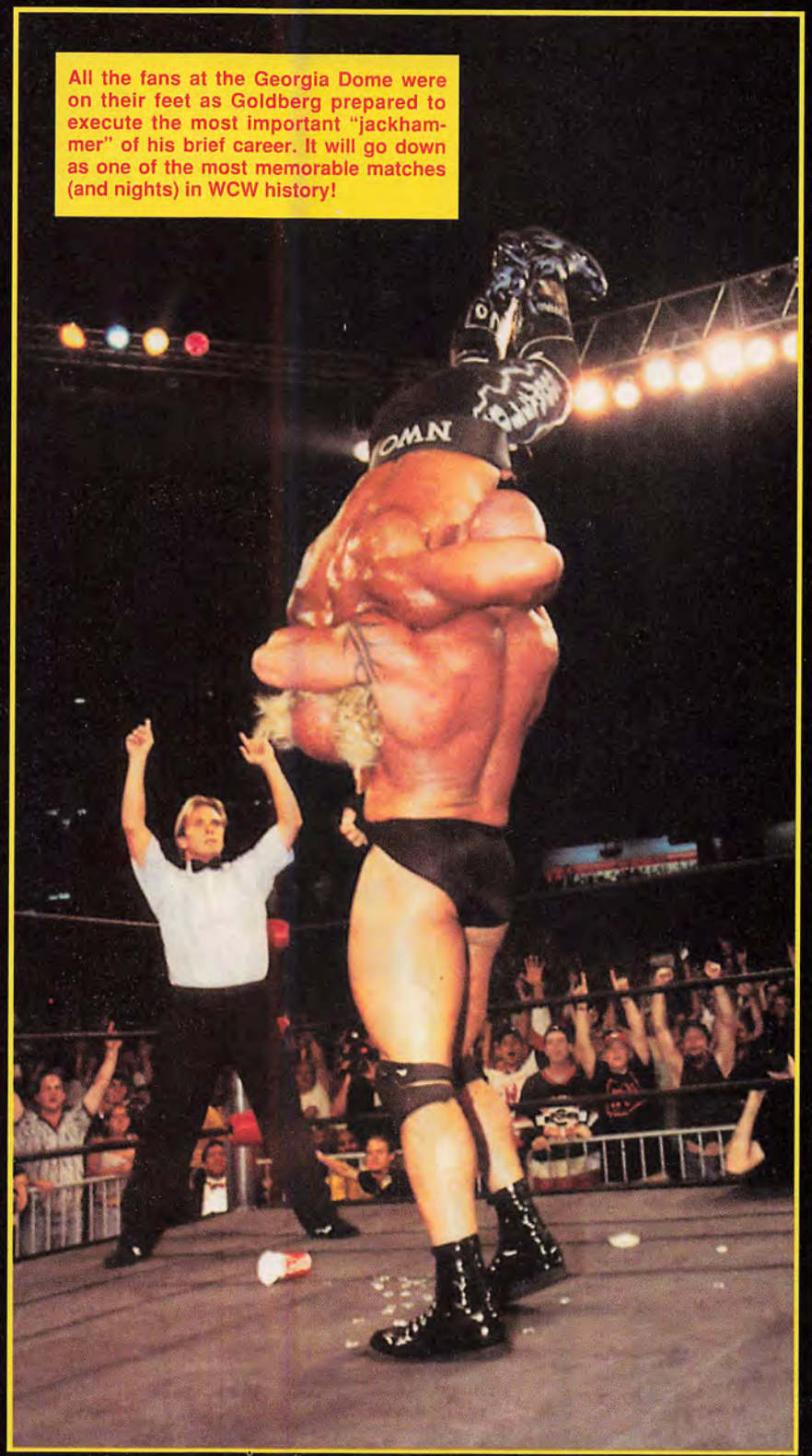
Expectations for Goldberg have multiplied twentyfold with his title victory. The dramatic ascension of Goldberg in only 10 months, the enormous ovations he has received at WCW arenas (often hours before he makes his appearance), and his clear-cut triumph for the championship have set an incredible standard for his title reign. Can Goldberg's reign be as impressive as his meteoric rise?

"I was a little skeptical about Goldberg's abilities when people started hailing him as the greatest rookie ever, but he proved himself to everyone tonight," praised former WCW World champ Lex Luger. "I beat Hogan for the title last year and, let me tell you, it took every ounce of talent and energy I had in my body. If he can bring the same integrity and intensity to his title defenses that he displayed during his climb to the top, Goldberg can go down as one of the all-time greats.

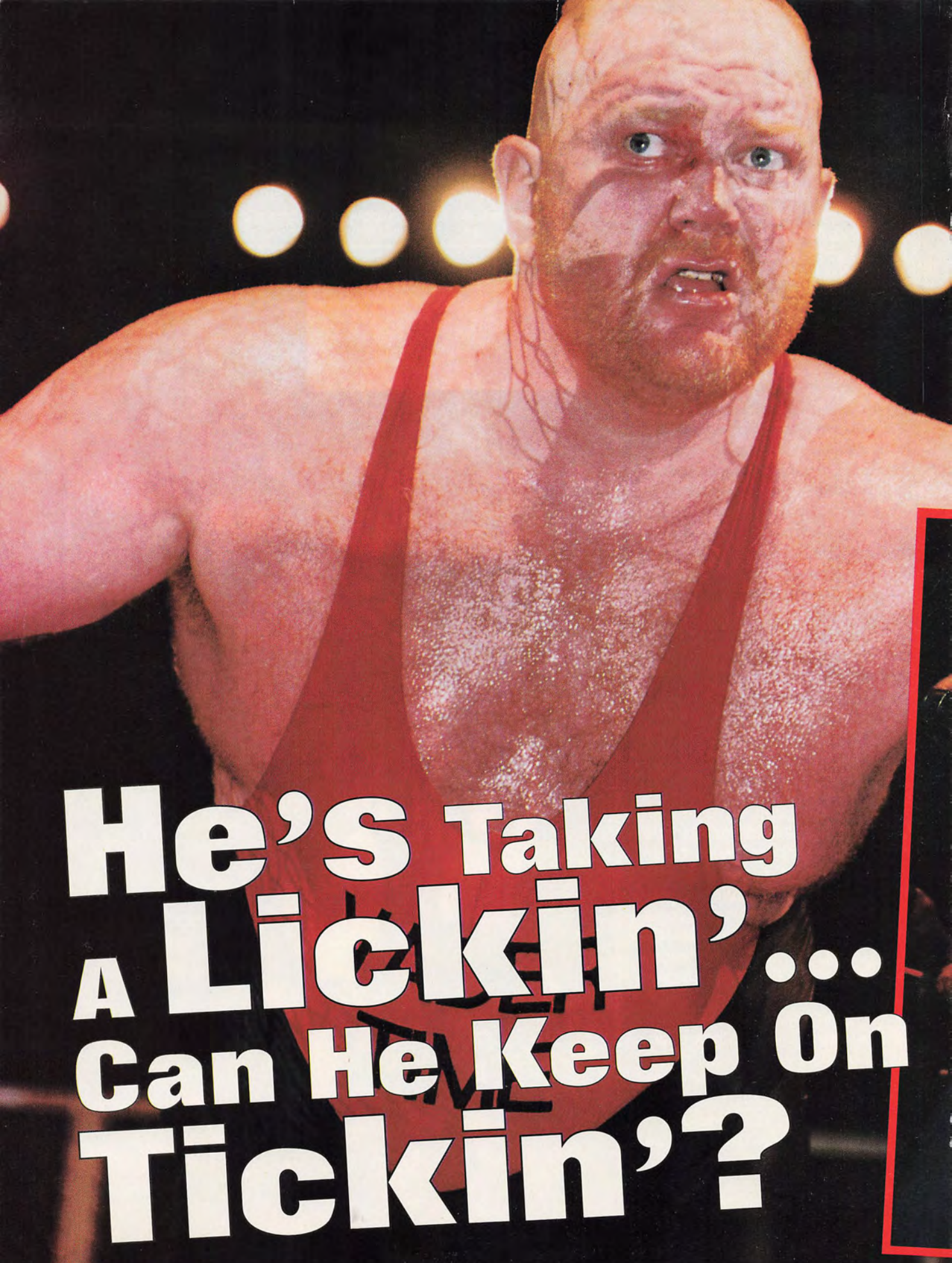
"Heck, I might take a crack at him myself," said Luger. "It would be a pleasure to wrestle an honorable champion for a change."

Luger's comments are especially telling. Despite euphoria and good cheer, a challenge is still made. Perhaps that will be the tone of Goldberg's reign. Challenges can be issued from all corners of WCW without fear of NWO reprisals. Anyone with enough guts will get the chance to face the champ, man to man.

If you thought Goldberg was awesome *before* his World title victory? You haven't seen anything yet! □



All the fans at the Georgia Dome were on their feet as Goldberg prepared to execute the most important "jackhammer" of his brief career. It will go down as one of the most memorable matches (and nights) in WCW history!



# He's Taking A Lickin'... Can He Keep On Tickin'?

# OUR 10-POINT PLAN TO MAKE IT VADER TIME AGAIN

It could be Vader time again in the sport, that is if the big man pulls himself up off the mat (opposite page) and follows our plan. Then a lot of the bigger names would be crumbling under his might the way D-Lo Brown is here (above).

**Once upon a time, Vader was one of the most dominant wrestlers in the world. Today he has trouble breaking the WWF's top 10. But if Vader were to follow our plan, he would once again be the most feared man in wrestling**

IT WASN'T LONG ago that Vader was on top of the world. In 1993, the agile behemoth cut a brutal swath of destruction through WCW, alternately defeating and hospitalizing top-flight opponents. Think Goldberg's winning streak is impressive? Then you don't remember Big Van Vader.

At 450 pounds, the original mas-

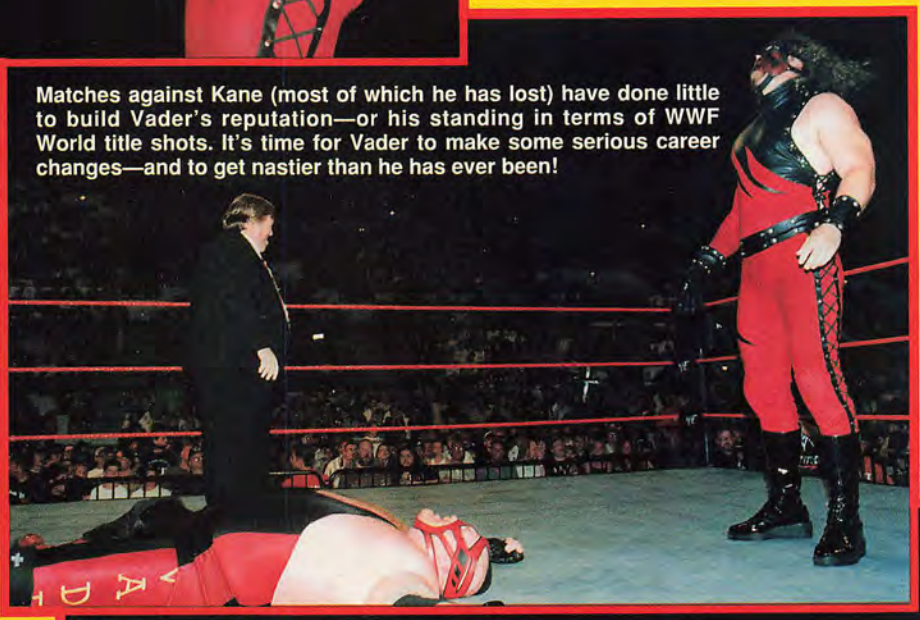
ter of the power bomb bullied his way to three WCW World titles. He manhandled Sting like no one ever had—or has since. He takes full credit for running "The Russian Nightmare" Nikita Koloff straight out of wrestling. He broke rookie grappler Joe Thurman's back and may have contributed to Mick Foley's "unique" mental state, dealing him several concussions by power-bombing him on concrete floors and tearing off most of Foley's right ear.

Surprisingly, though, Vader has been largely *unsuccessful* in the WWF. He gave Shawn Michaels a challenge for the World title when he first arrived in the federation, yet he was never unable to unseat him. In recent months he has had to deal with a serious orbital bone injury and numerous disappointing losses to Kane and other superstars. He has done very little to re-establish himself as a major player in the World title picture.

Still, we at PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED think Vader has the tools to return to dominance. Though we might regret it later, here are the 10 steps we feel Vader must follow to make it Vader time once again:

**STEP 1: Re-hire Jim Cornette.** Yes, Cornette's great NWA invasion has been an abysmal failure, but don't even think of counting Cornette out. The "Louisville Lip" was Vader's first manager in the WWF. Cornette also helped guide Yokozuna during his second WWF title reign. While Cornette is a tag team specialist, he has been successful in getting main-event matches for his super heavyweights. Vader should sign Cornette, let him do the talking, and ride the gravy train.

**STEP 2: Drop about 40 pounds.** If Vader hopes to compete with the likes of Steve Austin, Rocky Maivia, and perhaps Shawn Michaels, he *must* improve his ring speed. Losing the excess weight won't hurt him against fellow big men like The Undertaker or Kane, either. Carrying less weight will improve his stamina and speed and will keep him moving in lengthier matches.



**Matches against Kane (most of which he has lost) have done little to build Vader's reputation—or his standing in terms of WWF World title shots. It's time for Vader to make some serious career changes—and to get nastier than he has ever been!**

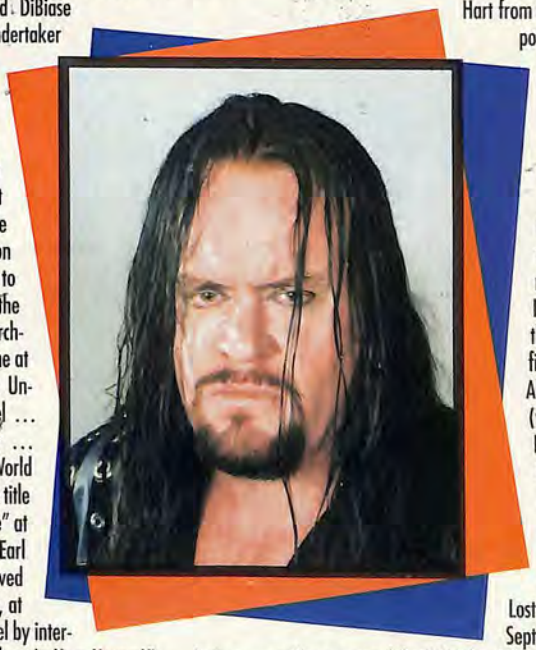
**STEP 3: Forget about the high-risk maneuvers.** Vader has always had a fondness for climbing the

*(Continued on page 57)*

# close-up:

# THE UNDERTAKER

ONE OF THE most mysterious men in wrestling history, Undertaker checks in at 6'8", 328 pounds … Began his wrestling career in the CWA, first as The Master of Pain, then as The Punisher … Changed his name to "Mean" Mark Callous and was called upon by WCW manager Teddy Long to replace Sid Vicious as Dan Spivey's partner in The Skyscrapers. He lost his spot when Vicious returned, setting off a feud … Left WCW for the WWF in mid-1990 and became The Undertaker … Originally managed by Brother Love but later took on Paul Bearer as his new manager … Feuded with The Ultimate Warrior, then set his sights on World champion Hulk Hogan … Beat Hogan for the title at Survivor Series on November 27, 1991, after piledriving him on a chair while Bearer distracted the referee … A rematch was ordered for six days later. Undertaker was struck by his own urn and lost the title … Underwent an image change when he saved Elizabeth from an attack by Jake Roberts on January 29, 1992 … Also feuded with Kamala, Yokozuna, and Giant Gonzales … Couldn't, however, overcome Mr. Fuji's interference in his quest to win the World title from Yokozuna … Yoko needed the help of eight wrestlers to roll Undertaker into the casket at the 1994 Royal Rumble … Undertaker vowed to return … Meanwhile, Ted DiBiase claimed to have signed Undertaker … DiBiase's Undertaker began appearing on cards … At the June 20, 1994, *Raw*, Bearer confronted DiBiase's Undertaker, who merely stared at him … The real Undertaker beat DiBiase's Undertaker at SummerSlam '94 … Beat Crush in a series of casket matches … Defeated Yokozuna in a casket match at Survivor Series '94 … Beat Irwin R. Schyster at the 1995 Royal Rumble … Pinned Sid Vicious at *Raw* on April 24, 1995 … Teamed with Shawn Michaels to defeat Kama and Vicious … Pinned by Mabel in the 1995 King of the Ring tournament … Beat new arch-rival Kama in a series of casket matches, including one at SummerSlam '95 … Bearer campaigned for an Undertaker title match against World champion Diesel … Suffered a broken orbital bone in mid-October … Returned to action in late-November and beat new World champ Bret Hart by DQ … Bearer demanded no-DQ title matches … Had Hart pinned following a "tombstone" at the 1996 Royal Rumble, but Diesel pulled referee Earl Hebner out of the ring and Hart was DQ'd … Saved Hart from an attack by Diesel on January 26, 1996, at Madison Square Garden … Gained revenge on Diesel by interfering in the Diesel-Bret Hart World title cage match at In Your House VI … Just as Diesel was making his way toward the door, 'Taker, who hid under the ring prior to the card, tore through the mat and pulled "Big Daddy Cool" under the ring … Thirty seconds later, after Hart had climbed over the top, Diesel reappeared in the ring looking terrified … Interim WWF President Roddy Piper signed a Diesel-Undertaker match for WrestleMania XII … Goldust's interference caused Undertaker to lose by countout in a title match against Bret on February 25 … Undertaker and Diesel brawled their way back to the dressing room during a match pitting Bret Hart and Undertaker vs. Diesel and Shawn Michaels at Madison Square Garden … Overcame two power bombs in a wild match at WrestleMania XII and pinned Diesel … Was sneak-attacked by Mankind and victimized by the mandible claw on the April 1, 1996, *Raw* … Dominated his feud with Mankind and pinned him at In Your House VII … Mankind hid in the casket during Undertaker's casket match with I-C champ Goldust on May 28, 1996, and pulled him in, causing him to lose … Bearer struck Undertaker with his urn at King of the Ring, rendering him unconscious and causing him to lose to Mankind. Bearer claimed it was an accident … Bad feelings between Bearer and 'Taker built up over the following weeks … Mankind interfered in Undertaker's match against Goldust at In Your House IX on July 21, 1996. They fought their way back to the boiler room; later, WWF President Gorilla Monsoon signed Undertaker and Mankind for a boiler room brawl at SummerSlam '96 … Bearer betrayed Undertaker at SummerSlam, ending their five-plus-year partnership. He struck 'Taker with the urn, enabling Mankind to win … Teamed with Jake Roberts against Mankind and various partners … Defeated Mankind in a "Buried Alive" match at In Your House XI on October 20 … With Bearer suspended above the ring in a cage, Undertaker also beat Mankind at the 1996 Survivor Series … "Tombstoned" The Executioner in a wild Armageddon match at In Your House XII. Mankind interfered, all three men battled back to the dressing room area, and security guards had to place Mankind in a straitjacket … Lost to World champ Sid Vicious by countout on January 5, 1997 … Interference by Bearer enabled Vader to pin Undertaker at the Royal Rumble … Later, Undertaker eliminated Mankind from the Rumble itself, only to get eliminated by Steve Austin … Had a shot at the vacant World title in a four-man elimination match at In Your House XII, but was pinned by Bret Hart after Austin interfered … Hart lost the belt to Vicious one day later. Then, six days prior to WrestleMania XIII, Undertaker's interference prevented Hart from beating Vicious … Undertaker was about to get power-bombed by Vicious in their World title match at WrestleMania, when Hart came to the ring and was fought off by Vicious. When Sid turned his attention back to Undertaker, he was greeted by a "tombstone" piledriver. Undertaker scored the pin at 21:19 for his second World title … Bearer blackmailed Undertaker by threatening to reveal a secret about him and forced him to team with Mankind and Big Van Vader in six-man matches … Pinned Faarooq at the 1997 King of the Ring PPV … Bearer finally revealed the secret: The brother he thought had died in a fire when they were both kids was still alive … Although clearly shaken, Undertaker pinned Vader (with Bearer) after a "tombstone" at In Your House on July 6, 1997 … Lost the World title to Bret Hart at SummerSlam '97 when special referee Shawn Michaels mistakenly hit him with a chair … Undertaker, incensed at Michaels, waited for revenge, and got it at the Ground Zero pay-per-view, when he tore into Shawn … Lost to Hart by DQ at the One Night Only PPV on September 20, 1997 … Undertaker's long-lost brother, Kane, entered the WWF that fall with Bearer as his manager … Kane's interference allowed Michaels to pin Undertaker in a "Hell In A Cell" match … According to Kane, Undertaker had left him for dead in that fire. He demanded a match against Undertaker, but Undertaker refused it … Battled World champ Michaels at the 1998 Royal Rumble … "Tombstoned" Michaels into the casket before Kane and Bearer arrived. Kane attacked his brother and rolled him into the casket, giving Michaels the win. Then Kane and Bearer set the casket ablaze … Undertaker somehow survived, but didn't return to the ring until March … Overcame a tombstone and pinned Kane in their first meeting at WrestleMania XIV. After the match, Kane "tombstoned" Undertaker onto a steel chair … Piled up victories over Kane in their ensuing matches … Beat Kane in an "inferno" match at the Unforgiven PPV … Helped World champ Steve Austin retain the title in a match against Dude Love at Over the Edge … Bloodied Bearer's face during a cage match on *Raw* … Injured his ankle while attacking Bearer in his home the next night … Pinned Mankind in an ultraviolent "Hell In The Cell" match at King of the Ring … Kane beat Austin for the World title at King of the Ring after 'Taker hit Austin with a chair, but lost the belt back to "Stone-Cold" one night later … Now 'Taker and his half-brother are both top contenders to the WWF title. □



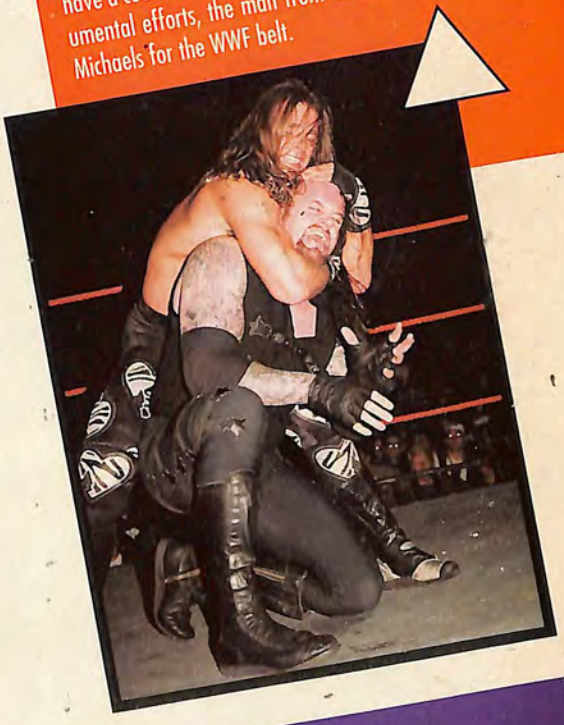
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

# THE UNDERTAKER

## Disciple Of Darkness!

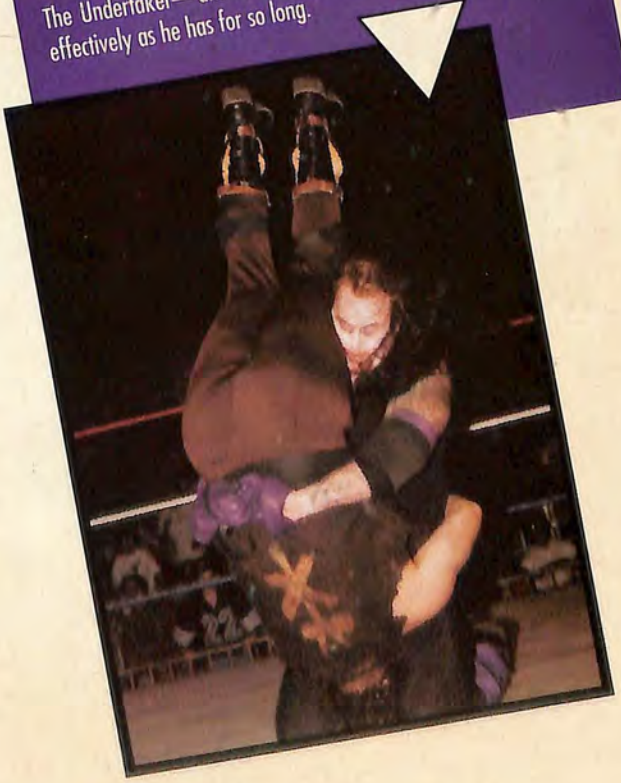
**GREATEST MATCH**
***vs. "Psycho" Sid Vicious, March 23, 1997.*** Even though The Undertaker had won the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan back in 1991, he was forced to give it up by WWF President Jack Tunney after just one day. His WWF title victory over Sid, and subsequent four-plus-month reign, was much more satisfying even though he won with a little help from Bret Hart, the man who would later beat him for the same championship.

**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**
***Shawn Michaels.*** Despite their great size difference, "The Heartbreak Kid" gave 'Taker all he could handle in both their classic "Hell In A Cell" match at Badd Blood last fall and their casket match at this year's Royal Rumble. Michaels seemed to have a counter for every 'Taker advance. Even after two monumental efforts, the man from the dark side couldn't defeat Michaels for the WWF belt.



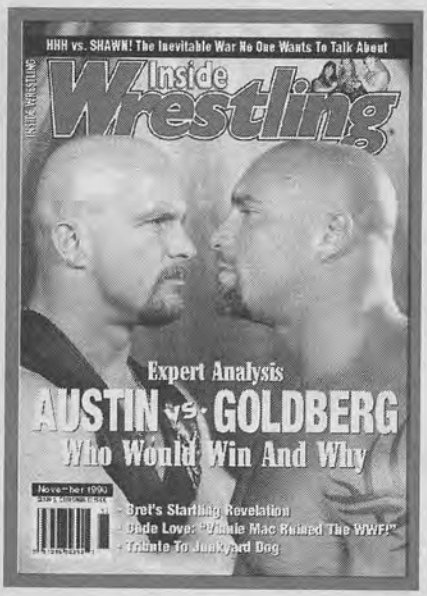
**MOST HATED OPPONENT**
***Mankind.*** Kane might inspire eerie feelings in The Undertaker, but Mankind inspires bad feelings. *Very* bad feelings. 'Taker took his feud with Mankind to new heights—literally—when he sent Mankind through the roof of the "Hell In A Cell" cage before backdropping him onto a pile of thumbtacks at King of the Ring. Could his feelings for Mankind be made any clearer?

**FAVORITE MANEUVER**
***"Tombstone" piledriver.*** After watching Kane get to his feet after absorbing two of these at WrestleMania XIV, we thought the "tombstone" was losing its effect. But the third one put him out. No wrestler has been as closely associated with this maneuver as The Undertaker—and for good reason: Nobody has used it as effectively as he has for so long.



# this month in....

## Inside Wrestling


HHH vs. SHAWN! The Inevitable War No One Wants To Talk About
Inside Wrestling
Expert Analysis
AUSTIN vs. GOLDBERG
Who Would Win And Why
November 1998
- Bret's Startling Revelation
- Dude Love: "Vince Mac Ruined The WWF!"
- Tribute To Junkyard Dog

We know it's a match you want to see. We want to see it, too. But it might never happen. It's **STEVE AUSTIN** vs. **BILL GOLDBERG**, of course, and if it *does* happen, we'll tell you here who we think would win and why ... The ovation **SHAWN MICHAELS** received upon returning to the WWF as a broadcaster showed the fans didn't forget him. We're sure **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** didn't forget about him, either ... So what will happen when HBK returns? ... To the surprise of many, **BRET HART** and **HOLLYWOOD HOGAN** remain united, but Bret stunned us when he said, "Hogan's obsessions will be his downfall."

All this—and much more—
in the November 1998 issue of
***Inside Wrestling***

## The Wrestler

**STING** knows **THE GIANT** all too well. He lost to him dozens of times in 1996. Just couldn't find a way to beat him. So why was he just a little glad when the big guy joined **NWO HOLLYWOOD**? It gave him a chance to exorcise some demons—and make The Giant see red! ... We don't see **STEVE AUSTIN** as a chess player, but we can tell you about the night he took out another one of **VINCE McMAHON's** pawns! ... We're not ashamed to admit that **CHAVO GUERRERO JR.** scares us a bit. But he is an interesting man to interview. We had an unusual and insightful "Q & A" with him!

All this—and much more—
in the November 1998 issue of
***The Wrestler***

# MEDIA

IF YOU ARE like a few million other wrestling fans, you enjoy watching TNT's *WCW Monday Nitro* every week. You probably get frustrated when the NBA playoffs pre-empt *Nitro*. Well, believe it or not, you might not have to worry about the NBA pre-empting *Nitro* again.

Don't get excited just yet—TNT isn't dropping its NBA coverage.

Rather, your cable system might just drop TNT, which would mean that unless you had a satellite dish, you wouldn't be able to see *Nitro*. Who's to blame for this? A combination of entities, including TNT, local cable systems, and, to a degree, the NBA and the TV show *ER*.

First off, if your cable system is Time Warner Cable, the second-largest cable operator in the United States, you won't be affected. TNT is owned by Time Warner Inc., so no Time Warner-owned cable system would ever drop TNT from its lineup. Other cable systems, however, might.

Why? Because TNT is raising the rates it charges cable systems to carry the channel.

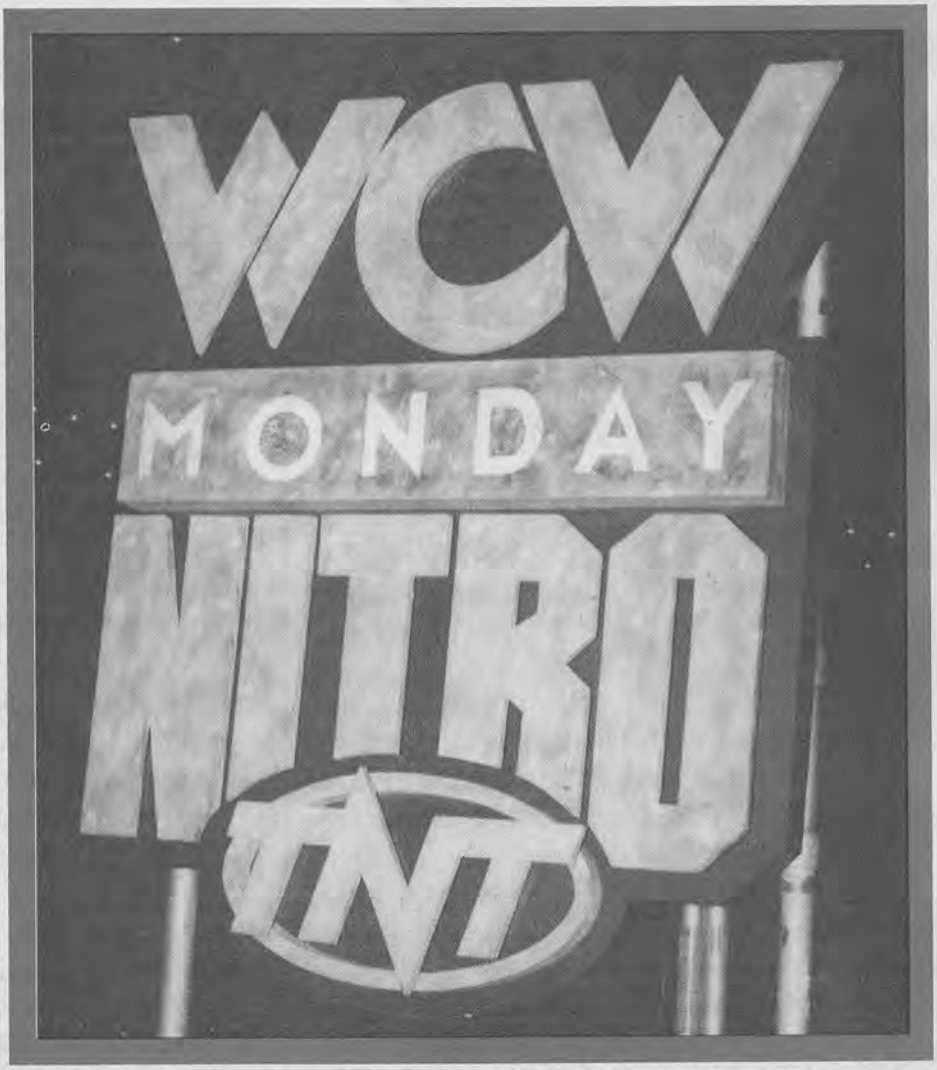
Unlike broadcast networks, which actually pay local television stations to carry their programming, cable networks charge cable systems to carry their programming. Here's how it works: TNT charges cable operators approximately 50 to 55 cents for each subscriber per month to carry TNT on their cable systems.

Thus, TNT actually has two major revenue sources: advertisers and cable operators.

TNT is proposing raising its rates by approximately five cents per month, which would represent a $6,000 yearly increase for a cable system with 10,000 subscribers. For a cable system with 50,000 subscribers, it would represent a $30,000 yearly increase in fees.

According to *MultiChannel News*, a cable television trade magazine, the proposed TNT rate increase is expected to cost the cable industry anywhere from $1.4-million to $3.5-million. TNT's justification for the rate increase includes the $890-million it must pay for NBA rights and the recent $1-million-per-episode deal it struck for syndication rights to *ER* (though TNT fails to mention that it will likely recoup much of that initial investment by selling *ER* episodes to local TV stations for weekend-only airings).

TNT has also invested millions of dollars in hit movies




**Are you ready for life without *Nitro* every Monday night? It's possible that quite a few fans won't have TNT on their cable systems soon. That wouldn't be good for ratings.**

such as *As Good As It Gets, Wag The Dog*, and *Lost In Space*. Since it claims that the new NBA package costs as much as the previous NBA and NFL packages combined, TNT is passing on some of the increased programming costs to the cable operators.

The cable operators, of course, will in turn pass on the costs to the cable subscribers in the form of higher monthly rates. So enjoy the NBA playoffs when they pre-empt *Nitro* on TNT, because you're paying for those telecasts.

Predictably, many cable operators are balking at paying the increased subscribers fees. The key reason has nothing to do with the NBA or WCW.

The key source of their anger is the NFL.

Beginning with the 1998 season, ESPN will be the only cable network carrying NFL games. In 1991, TNT increased rates by 12 cents per subscriber per month to help offset the costs of the NFL on TNT package.

When TNT lost the NFL, theoretically, it should have removed the NFL surcharge. A few cable executives even felt TNT should have given them a rebate, or at least lowered their rates. While most cable executives didn't realistically expect TNT to lower the rates upon losing the NFL, they figured that TNT wouldn't *raise* rates.

Yet not only is TNT raising rates, it has taken a hardline approach to negotiations. It has reportedly told cable operators that they can either pay the increased fees or not carry TNT.

Period.

Because TNT consistently battles USA as the top-rated cable network with hot programming such as *Nitro* and the NBA, TNT believes it has the upper hand in these negotiations. Thus many cable operators are being forced to give in to TNT's demands.

However, some might not. What happens then?

TNT could force the cable operator to drop the network from its lineup ... or TNT could accept the lower rate offered by the cable system. Don't expect the latter to happen.

In early-June, it was rumored that TNT would be pulled from cable operators who did not pay the increased fee and that the network might even go so far as to take out newspaper ads in areas in which TNT was dropped and encourage cable subscribers to switch to direct broadcast satellite so they could get TNT. While that rumor is still unconfirmed, there's an interesting story there. You see, Time Warner owns 30 percent of DBS provider PrimeStar. If enough non-Time Warner cable subscribers switch from their cable systems to PrimeStar, Time Warner ultimately makes more money.

TNT's hardline negotiations could have a devastating impact on WCW's ratings.

If cable systems drop TNT, fewer homes will be able to get *Nitro*. While some cable subscribers might switch to DBS to get TNT, the vast majority will not.

The end result: Fewer people will be able to watch *Nitro*. Fewer people watching obviously means lower ratings. With *Nitro* already being beaten by *Raw* on a fairly regular basis of late, this could give *Raw* an extra advantage in the Monday night ratings wars. If enough systems drop TNT, *Nitro's* ratings could plummet to a point at which the show is no longer competitive with *Raw*. *Nitro* commercials will then sell for less, and WCW's value will decline. Most likely, though, none of this will happen.

TNT will negotiate higher rates with the cable operators. They will in turn pass the cost on to you. But, at a time when the wrestling wars are hotter than ever, it would be ironic if TNT prevented WCW from getting the kind of ratings it wanted. □

## THE MONDAY NIELSEN WAR

| | Date | Rating | Households | Main Event |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Raw** | 6/29 | 5.4 | 3.97 mil. | Austin-Kane |
| **Nitro** | 6/29 | 4.1 | 3.00 mil. | Goldberg-Glacier |
| **Raw** | 7/6 | 4.0 | 2.94 mil. | Undertaker-Mankind |
| **Nitro** | 7/6 | 4.8 | 3.52 mil. | Goldberg-Hogan |
| **Raw** | 7/13 | 4.7 | 3.46 mil. | Kane/Mankind-NAO |
| **Nitro** | 7/13 | 4.5 | 3.30 mil. | Goldberg-Hennig |
| **Raw** | 7/20 | 5.0 | 3.68 mil. | Austin-Mankind/Kane |
| **Nitro** | 7/20 | 4.4 | 3.22 mil. | Hart-Page |

***Cumulative (From 9/4/95): Nitro—3.50; Raw—2.95***

# the steel cage

By Dave Rosenbaum

***CHANGING TIMES.*** The problem with closely covering a sport is that it's easy to lose perspective. Get too close to something and you run the risk of not being able to view the entire picture. It becomes impossible to consider how outsiders might view a situation; sometimes, their view is the clearest.

An article about Ted Turner and Vince McMahon in a recent issue of *Time* opened my eyes to the current state of wrestling.

Wrote *Time:* "In the old days, there was a fairly simple distinction between the good guys and bad guys. Now no one is reliably good. The emphasis is all on rebellion and arrogance, black leather and shades."

Nowhere is this more true than in WCW, where the NWO—a rule-breaking clique by any measure—has been separated into two: NWO Hollywood, with Hollywood Hogan and Eric Bischoff as the leaders, and NWO Wolfpac, with Kevin Nash as the leader. Until recently, the hottest feud in the federation had been between the NWO and those wrestlers who had remained loyal to WCW—a true, traditional bad guys vs. good guys wrestling feud.

But now there are three sides—WCW, NWO Hollywood, and NWO Wolfpac—with good guys and bad guys within WCW, only good guys in The Wolfpac, and only bad guys within NWO Hollywood. The line between good and bad was truly crossed when Sting—one of WCW's all-time good guys—joined NWO Wolfpac.

Meanwhile, there was this item from *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly:* "Although they wrestle on the same side of the rulebook, there is no love lost between WWF European champ Hunter Hearst Helmsley and I-C champ Rocky Maivia, as their July 4 match proved."

Once upon a time, the simplest way for a champion to avoid a feared challenger was to get him on the same side. That was Hogan's method for years in the WWF and later in

Eric Bischoff and Hollywood Hogan are undoubtedly two of the most despised men in wrestling. But it isn't because their group, NWO Hollywood, breaks any more rules than anyone else.

WCW. But it doesn't work that way anymore. Rulebreakers wrestle rulebreakers. Fan favorites wrestle fan favorites.

Not until I saw the *Time* article, however, did I recognize the consequences of this "class" distinction. Sure, I realized that rulebreakers were wrestling rulebreakers and fan favorites were wrestling fan favorites. Now, though, it's obvious that although rulebreakers break the rules, as they always did, so do fan favorites. So the fan favorites don't always have to do good. As *Time* pointed out, it's the most rebellious, the most arrogant, the ones who wear the slickest leather and the darkest shades that get the loudest cheers.

There used to be two sides in wrestling. Now there are many sides.

Kevin Nash breaks the rules. So does Hogan. But most fans like Nash and hate Hogan.

Goldberg is a ruthless power merchant who will do anything to win.

Austin is a ruthless power merchant who will do anything to win. WWF owner Vince McMahon thinks Austin's an unworthy champion and will do anything to get the belt away from him.

Yet the fans love Goldberg and Austin. In fact, Goldberg and Austin are the most popular wrestlers since Hogan hit his peak in the mid-1980s. They are on the road to a level of superstardom unmatched by any wrestler except Hogan. And the fans root for Austin even though he says things like, "'Cause 'Stone-Cold' said so" in an arrogant voice and would probably never avoid a shortcut to victory.

If The Four Horsemen of the 1980s—the ruthless version with Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, and Ole Anderson—were around today, their arrogance and rulebreaking tactics would be considered cool. They'd be fan favorites, because being a fan favorite has nothing to do with following the rules. It has to do with ... well, with something that's impossible to describe. There's a chemistry between Goldberg and the fans, between Austin and the fans, and to a lesser extent, between NWO Wolfpac and the fans, that's hard to describe.

The only sure way to become a fan favorite: Go against Hogan, McMahon, or Bischoff, the three most hated men in wrestling.

Most former wrestlers and just about every current promoter refuse to discuss the current trend with reporters, probably because they don't understand it themselves. Promoters these days are at the mercy of the fans. A few years ago, all promoters had to do was schedule fan favorites against rulebreakers and they had themselves a nice card. Now they have to figure out what's going through the fans' minds. They have to figure out what the fans want. Wrestling is no longer so simple as rulebreakers vs. fan favorites, good guys vs. bad guys. Who are the good guys? Who are the bad guys?

To tell you the truth, I like it this way. The old rulebreaker/fan favorite distinction was filled with hypocrisy. Fan favorites typically broke as many rules as the rulebreakers. The Road Warriors, one of the most loved teams in wrestling history, have always relied on before-the-bell attacks and double-clotheslines, both rulebreaking tactics.

Wrestling has changed for the better and for good. We can't go back to the way things were. This is the way things will be for a long time. □

**Steve Austin is arguably the toughest *and* meanest man in the sport. He is *not* a nice guy. And fans couldn't possibly love him more. He's a popular rulebreaker ... although every wrestler is a rulebreaker now.**

# win lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

I'M SURPRISED ERIC BISCHOFF has any hair left. I know "Easy E" has been yanking his Ken Doll locks over the past couple months, wondering how *Raw Is War* has been swamping *Nitro* almost every week in the Monday night Nielsen ratings.

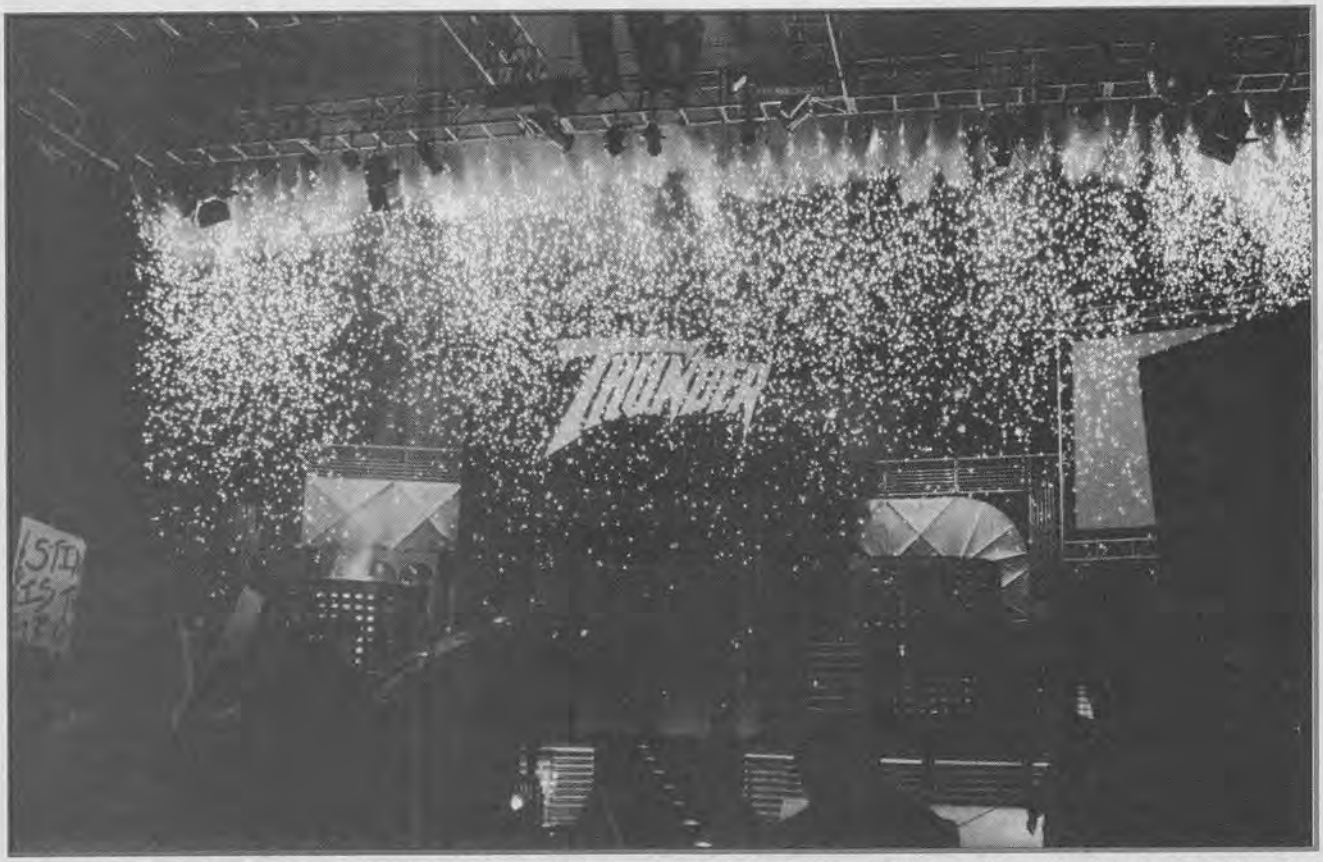
Some of WCW's recent woes can be attributed to the WWF's risque marketing strategy, in which wrestlers are now allowed to batter opponents with chairs and use thinly veiled sexual references and colorful language. No, the geniuses at Titan Towers shouldn't be taking all the credit for *Raw's* current success. There must a reason why viewers are switching away from WCW.

Some attribute WCW's loss of drawing power to the installation of *Thunder* on Wednesday/Thursday nights. But *Nitro* retained its momentum for several weeks after *Thunder* premiered in January. Moreover, *Thunder's* ratings haven't increased enough in recent months to account for the exodus of *Nitro* viewers. Fans have always had the option of watching *Raw,* then catching *Nitro's* replay later that night. Until recently, plenty of viewers had been willing to forego *Raw* altogether so they could see *Nitro* live.

It's usually difficult to pinpoint the genesis of such power shifts, but in this case, it's rather easy to find. WCW's slump actually began back in December, when everything seemed to go off-track. In fact, a series of events (and non-events) has led to the federation's current headaches:

**1. Bret Hart's arrival in WCW.** His departure from the WWF captured the imagination of fans everywhere. Hart's entry into WCW was a non-event due to his lack of ring activity and his nonstop "best there is, best there was"

*(Continued on page 46)*




**WCW figured that by adding a new weekly TV show called *Thunder* at the beginning of this year, it would get fans more interested in its product. In recent months, getting *Nitro's* ratings up has been a much bigger concern.**

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(Continued from page 44)

speeches. Hart's bewildering endorsement of NWO Hollywood has erased his fan appeal.

**2. Sting's two tainted victories over Hollywood Hogan.** The Sting-Hogan match at Starrcade '97 was one of the most anticipated clashes of all-time. Sting, whose legend had nearly eclipsed that of Camelot, was the overwhelming favorite. To the crowd's shock, Hogan scored the pinfall after executing his legdrop. Bret Hart, who refereed a match earlier that evening, took it upon himself to throw out the decision and restart the match. When Hogan seemed to be cheated in similar fashion the next night, Sting's self-righteous persona—and WCW's credibility—took a tremendous hit.

**3. The disintegration of the New World Order.** What an anticlimax. Yeah, yeah, I know NWO Hollywood and NWO Wolfpac still exist. But a lot of fans had to be secretly hoping the NWO's *real* Wolfpac—Kevin Nash, Scott Hall, and Syxx—would be the group's ultimate rebel faction. Kevin Nash, Lex Luger, and Sting? It doesn't make any sense.

**4. Eric Bischoff becomes a wrestling personality.** Arguably, Bischoff has proven himself to be Vince McMahon's equal from a promotional and marketing standpoint—but not in terms of villainy. It took McMahon 25 years to build up the kind of hatred he's receiving now. And no matter how much Bischoff shoves *NWO Late Night* down everyone's throats, he has far to go before inspiring a passionate fan reaction. Don't even try it.

Now that I've focused on some of WCW's recent misfortunes, let's concentrate on some of the brighter spots. Namely the strengths that, if handled correctly by officials and competitors alike, can help WCW regain its mantle as the undisputed king of Monday night wrestling.

Bret Hart hasn't done much to increase interest in WCW since he arrived. Maybe if he wrestled more and didn't worry so much about telling us who he's with and who he hates ...

**1. Family viewing appeal.** WCW still has a firm grip on both the mainstream wrestling audience and the casual fans—and that's an advantage it doesn't want to lose. WCW should never try to mimic the WWF's "bad-itude." We don't want Disco Inferno mooning the crowd, anyway.

**2. Predictability.** There is a semblance of order in WCW many fans appreciate. *Nitro* viewers know that almost everything will occur in the ring, whether it be interviews or live action. *Raw* fans never know what to expect, whether it be fighting in a cemetery, a backlot brawl, or people threatening to set themselves on fire. Competition, rather than spectacle, is WCW's primary strength.

**3. Talent.** The WWF claims to have youth on its side, but there's no substitute for established star power. WCW has it. It also has a much deeper talent roster than the WWF. If more promotional focus were on individual wrestlers instead of who is going to join which clique, fan interest might increase. For example, Bret Hart's strength is his one-on-one relationship with the fans, whether it is negative or positive. I'm not sure if many people care if he's in NWO Hollywood, NWO Wolfpac, or *Guys And Dolls*. The supergroup card has been overplayed.

**4. Bill Goldberg.** The excitement generated by Goldberg's recent WCW World title victory over Hollywood Hogan—an epic showdown free of gang entourages—hearkened back to the sport's golden age. And it drew huge ratings for *Nitro*. The only low point occurred when Curt Hennig walked to ringside to assist Hogan, only to be intercepted by Karl Malone's haphazard "Diamond cutter." This proved wrestling should be about wrestlers, not cliques or basketball players. Goldberg reminded us of that.

Like Vince McMahon, Eric Bischoff and the Turner hierarchy have learned that it never pays to play it safe. The stakes are too high, and fans are too demanding. Yes, WCW and the NWO have already set a new standard in wrestling. The real challenge is to find a way to surpass it. □

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# arena reports

**The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.**

## UNITED STATES

### ARKANSAS

**FORT SMITH**—World Pro Wrestling at Harper Stadium: **Doink the Clown** pinned **Monbasa** ... **Action Jackson** defeated **Solomon Grundy** ... **Kevin Northcutt** beat **Guido Buttafuco** ... Heavyweight champion **Jerry Grey** beat **The Executioner** ... **The Bushwhackers** defeated **Greg Valentine** & **Rainbow Warrior** ... **Jake Roberts** beat **Brian Knobs** in a steel cage match.
(06-12-98)

*—Matthew Duffield & Brett Wolfe*

### CALIFORNIA

**HAYWARD**—All-Pro Wrestling at the APW Garage: **Rick Turner** defeated **Chris Ward** ... **Jay Smooth** defeated **Jason C. Clay** ... **Michael Modest** defeated **El Chicano Flame** ... **Tony Jones** & **Vinny Massaro** defeated **Boyce LeGrande** & **Robert Thompson** and **Erin O'Grady** & **Donovan Morgan** in a triple threat elimination match ... Universal champion **Maxx Justice** defeated **Frank Murdoch** when referee **Max Marquez** stopped the match because of excessive bleeding on Murdoch's part.
(06-12-98)

*—Jeremy Medeiros*

### CONNECTICUT

**WALLINGFORD**—NWA New England at Toyota of Wallingford: Cruiserweight champ **Tre** beat **Jason Rage** ... **Jay Kobain** (with **Jim Cornette**) beat **Wagner Brown** ... **Jeff Mangles** beat **Rocky Shore** ... **Half Nelson** beat **Tiny the Terrible** ... **The Mercenary** defeated **Knuckles Nelson** by reverse decision ... **Curtis Slamdawg** & **Ron Zombie** beat **Joel Davis** & **Trooper Gilmore** ... **Steve Morabito** defeated **Mike Lawler** ... Heavyweight champ **Erich Sbraccia** beat **Beau Douglas**.
(06-20-98)

*—Rich Palladino*

**HARTFORD**—WWF at the Civic Center: **The Headbangers** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Scott Taylor** ... **Faarooq** beat **Mark Henry** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Jeff Jarrett** (with **Tennessee Lee**) beat **Steve Blackman** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** & **The New Age Outlaws** beat **LOD 2000** & **Vader** ... **Bradshaw** beat **Kama Mustafa** ... **Dustin Runnels** & **Terry Funk** beat **Los Boricuas** ... **Ken Shamrock** beat **Owen Hart** ... **Steve Austin** & **The Undertaker** beat **Mankind** & **Kane**.
(06-04-98)

*—Dan Reilly*

### FLORIDA

**WEST PALM BEACH**—Florida Wrestling Alliance at Doctor Flea's Flea Market: **Black Heart** defeated **Billy Hanson** ... **Terry Anderson** defeated **Fast Eddie** ... **Rusty Brooks** defeated **The Assassin** ... Tag team champs **The Exterminators** beat **The Shooters** ... **Al Hardiman** defeated **Hack Myers** by disqualification ... **Sideshow Bob** won a battle royal.
(06-21-98)

*—Cliff Anderson*

### GEORGIA

**ROSSVILLE**—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Heavyweight champion **Buff Daddy Norton** defeated **Blackie Lawless** & **Dave "Big Dog" Bowser** in a handicap match ... **Skull Von Kruger** & **Nick Malone** wrestled to a no-contest with **Bobby Hayes** & **Rawhead Rex** ... **Adam Jacobs** defeated **Bane** ... **Woody Woodchuck** defeated **Rick Justice** by knockout in a boxing match.
(06-20-98)

*—Bill Needham*

### INDIANA

**LINTON**—Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws at the Armory: **Indiana Kidd Jr.** defeated **Aaron Rogers** ... **Rob Ramer** defeated WCWO champ **Don Basher** by disqualification ... **Midnight Rocker** defeated **Chad Collins** by disqualification ... **Wild Thing** pinned **Bulldozer** ... **The Rocker Express** beat **Wild Thing** & **Don Basher** ... **Bulldozer** won a battle royal.
(06-20-98)

*—Harold Newt*

**FORT WAYNE**—WCW at the Allen County War Memorial: TV champ **Dave Finlay** beat **Mike Enos** ... **Juventud Guerrera** & **Psicosis** beat **Damian** & **Norman Smiley** ... **Brian Adams** beat **Hugh Morris** ... **Jim Duggan** beat **The Barbarian** ... Cruiserweight champ **Dean Malenko** beat **Chris Jericho** ... U.S. champ **Bill Goldberg** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Kevin Nash** beat **"Diamond" Dallas Page** ... **Sting** beat **The Giant**.
(06-06-98)

*—Dennis Anderson*

**HAMMOND**—WWF at the Civic Center: **The Headbangers** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Scott Taylor** ... **Faarooq** beat **Mark Henry** ... **Steve Blackman** beat **Jeff Jarrett** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Bradshaw** beat **Kama Mustafa** ... **Ken Shamrock** beat **Owen Hart** in a submission match ... **The New Age Outlaws** & **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **LOD 2000** & **Vader** ... **Dustin Runnels** & **Terry Funk** beat **Savio Vega** & **Jose Estrada Jr.** ... **Steve Austin** & **The Undertaker** beat **Kane** & **Mankind**.
(06-03-98)

*—Dennis Anderson*

### KENTUCKY

**CUMBERLAND**—United Atlantic Championship Wrestling at the High School: **Alex Shane** defeated **The Worm** ... **Denny Cooley** beat **Tony Barnett** ... Light heavyweight champ **The Matador** defeated **Brian Good** ... **The Wild Samoan** defeated **Master Mayhem** ... **Tim** & **Toby Cooper** defeated tag team champs **Jessie Landel** & **Night Ranger** in a non-title match ... **Buddy Landell** defeated **Killer Kyle**.
(06-19-98)

*—Bill Needham*

**HOPKINSVILLE**—Music City Wrestling at the Armory: **Chris Michaels** wrestled **Rex King** to a draw ... **Kenny Arden** defeated **Frenchy Riviera** ... **Reno Riggins** beat **Tommy Rose** ... **Deputy Dawg** beat **Atomic Dog** ... **Colorado Kid** & **Shane Eden** defeated **Reno Riggins** & **Steven Dunn**.
(06-05-98)

*—Justin Ramey*

### LOUISIANA

**HOUMA**—Mid-South Promotions at the East Park Rec Center: **The Boardwalk Bully** beat **Shogun** ... **Devil Boy** beat **Brother Love** (not the original) for the cruiserweight title ... **Casey Blaze** beat **Stan Sweetan** ... **Mr. Wrestling III** wrestled **Kevin Northcutt** to a double-disqualification ... **The Hard Time Express** defeated **Total Insanity**.
(06-20-98)

*—Brett Wolfe*

### MARYLAND

**BALTIMORE**—WCW's Great American Bash pay-per-view at the Arena: **Booker T** beat **Chris Benoit** ... **Kanyon** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Chris Jericho** beat **Dean Malenko** by disqualification ... **Juventud Guerrera** beat **Reese** ... **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** beat **Eddy Guerrero** ... U.S. champ **Bill Goldberg** beat **Konnan** (with **Rick Rude** and **Curt Hennig**) ... **Booker T** beat TV champ **Dave "Fit" Finlay** for the belt ... **Hollywood Hogan** & **Bret Hart** beat **Roddy Piper** & **Randy Savage** ...

**Roddy Piper** defeated **Randy Savage** ... **Sting** beat **The Giant**.
(06-14-98)

*—Frank Krewda & Ray Ney*

**HAGERSTOWN**—House of Pain Wrestling at the Superior Pro Wrestling Training Center: **Randy the Violator** beat **Gutterboy** by disqualification ... **Biggs** defeated **Nemesis** by disqualification ... **The Latin Tornado** beat **Mike Lawson** by submission ... **Blackhawk** & **Chief Fox** beat **Slicky Boy** & **Skank** ... Heavyweight champ **Jack Hammer** beat **Prof. Egon Ecton** by reverse decision ... **Biggs** & **Randy the Violator** beat tag team champs **The Grungers** to win the title ... **Tank Wollford** won a battle royal.
(06-09-98)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

## MASSACHUSETTS

**BOSTON**—NWA New England at the Suffolk Downs Race Track: **Knuckles Nelson** beat **The Mercenary** ... **Jeff Mangles** beat **Rocky Shore** ... Cruiserweight champ **Tre** beat **Wagner Brown** ... **Bo Douglas** beat **Trooper Gilmore** ... **Ron Zombie** beat **Joel Davis** ... **Joe Gulla** beat **Jason Rage** ... Heavyweight champ **Erich Sbraccia** beat **Mike Lanno**.
(06-07-98)

*—Rich Palladino*

## MISSISSIPPI

**TUPELO**—Southern Championship Wrestling at Megasports: **Bad Boy Burns** beat **Buddy Ryan** ... **Blade Boudreaux** & **Lance Jade** defeated **Blackjack Daniels** & **Kenny Valiant** ... **Trae Keller** defeated **The Diamond Stud** ... **The Firm** beat **Danny B. Badd** & **The Fabulous Rocker** ... **The House of Pain** beat **The Storm** ... **Crazy Carter** & **Brother Bo** defeated **The Bruise Brothers** (not the originals).
(06-20-98)

*—Sheryl Dunn*

**COLLINS**—IWF at the Armory: **The Boardwalk Bully** defeated **J.D. Ryder** ... **The Devil Boy** and **Brother Love** (not the original) wrestled to a draw ... **Kevin Northcutt** wrestled to a double-countout with **Elijah Levay** ... **Paul Edwards** defeated **Doink the Clown** ... **The Hard Time Express** beat **Stan Sweetan** & **Kerry Rockwood**.
(06-13-98)

*—Brett Wolfe*

## NORTH CAROLINA

**HENDERSON**—United States Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **The Hillbilly** beat **Masa Fuchi** (not the original) ... **Terry Harley** defeated cruiserweight champ **Violator** for the belt ... **Body & Soul** beat **Marc Ash** & **Bonecrusher** by disqualification ... **Rusty Allen** wrestled **David Lee Gilbert** to a draw ... USWF champ **David Blanchard** beat **Dark Starr** by disqualification ... **Rick Morton** beat **Jackie Fulton** by disqualification.
(06-20-98)

*—Marcus Watkins*

**SPIVEY'S CORNER**—Atlantic Coast Championship Wrestling at the Midway High School: **Shane Helms** beat cruiserweight champ **Nemesis** in a non-title bout ... **K.C. Thunder** beat **Viper** ... **Dave Renegade** wrestled **Eddie Brown** to a double-countout ... U.S. champ **Punishment** pinned **Mike Yamaha** ... **Timber** beat **Slash Walker** ... **Viper** pinned **Steve Storm**.
(06-20-98)

*—Joe Wheeler*

**DURHAM**—Southern Championship Wrestling at Rhythm Alley: **Shane Helms** beat **Eddie Sexton** ... **G.Q. Kettle** beat **Juice** ... **C.W. Anderson** beat **Dan Rage** ... **The Serial Thrillaz** defeated **Big Slam** & **Joey Matthews** ... **Otto Schwanz** defeated **Chris Stephenson**.
(06-19-98)

*—Greg Mosorjak*

**FOREST CITY**—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **The Juicer** defeated **The Superstar** ... Junior heavyweight champ **Super Ninja** pinned **Scotty Hotbody** ... Tag team champs **Norton** & **Cruiser Lewis** wrestled **American G.I.** & **Dozer** to a double-countout ... PWF champ **George South** beat **The Black Angel** ... Eastern States champ **American G.I.** defeated **The Bodyguard** by disqualification ... **Juicer** won a battle royal.
(06-19-98)

*—Andy Nichols*

**WINSTON-SALEM**—New Dimension Wrestling at the Ernie Shore Field: **The Dang Yankee** pinned **Maverick Buck** ... **Atomic Freddy** defeated **Sergeant Max Rhodes** ... **Madd Maxx** pinned **Robert Roma** ... **Robert Roma**, **Sgt. Rhodes**, & **Maverick Buck** defeated **Madd Maxx**, **The Dang Yankee**, & **Atomic Freddy** ... **Manny Fernandez** pinned **Willie Clay**.
(06-18-98)

*—Chris Plano*

**MOCKSVILLE**—Ultimate Championship Wrestling at the YMCA: **Chris Hamrick** beat **Shane Huff** ... **Trent Knight** beat **The Funktown Kid** ... **Brad Holtin** defeated **Robert Roma** ... **Madd Maxx** defeated **L.A. Stephens** ... **Colt Steele** defeated **Hunter Thompson** ... **Brad Anderson** & **Rikki Nelson** defeated **Surge** & **Venom**.
(06-14-98)

*—Dan Parris*

**MOUNT AIRY**—Virginia-Carolina Championship Wrestling at the Old Jones School Gym: **Sir Trix-A-Lot** defeated **The Comet** ... **The Skinheads** defeated **Chris Star** & **Spade** ... **Rick Morton** and **The Hollywood Kid** wrestled to a draw ... **The Rude Boyz** and **The Dynamite Express** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Crybaby Chris** beat **Rob McBride** ... A battle royal was ruled a no-contest.
(06-06-98)

*—Frankie Sechrist*

## NEW JERSEY

**SOUTH BRIDGE**—American Wrestling Council at Grand Slam U.S.A.: **Overweight Lover** defeated **Alexi Taktarov** ... **Lupus** defeated **Judas Young** ... **Rik Ratchet** beat **Kevin Knight** by submission. According to a prematch stipulation, Knight can no longer wrestle in the promotion ... Tag team champs **The Misfits** defeated **Julio Sanchez** & **Rocco Dorsey** ... **Reckless Youth** won a four-way dance against **Twiggy Ramirez**, **J.R. Ryder**, and **Lance Diamond** ... **Steve Corino** & **Mike Kehner** beat **A.J. Sparxx** & **Tom Brandi** to gain control of the AWC. (**Stevie Richards** was special guest referee).
(06-06-98)

*—Richard Gill*

## NEW YORK

**NEW YORK**—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **The Headbangers** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Scott Taylor** ... **Faarooq** wrestled **Mark Henry** to a no-contest ... **2 Cold Scorpio** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Dustin Runnels** & **Terry Funk** beat **Savio Vega** & **Jose Estrada Jr.** ... **Ken Shamrock** beat

*(Continued on page 50)*

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# arena reports

(Continued from page 49)

**Owen Hart** in a submission match ... World tag team champs **The New Age Outlaws** beat **LOD 2000** ... **Bradshaw** beat **Kama Mustafa** ... **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Steve Blackman** ... European champ **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **Vader** ... **Steve Austin** & **The Undertaker** beat **Mankind** & **Kane**.
(06-05-98)

*—Bill Apter & Eric Raskin*

## PENNSYLVANIA

**DOWNINGTOWN**—WWWA at the Farmers' Market: **Johnny Law** beat **Nate Hatred** ... **Rocco Dorsey** defeated **El Diablo Cujo** ... **Mad Russian** beat **Johnny Thunder** ... **Sweet Destiny** defeated **Jade** ... **The Lost Boys** beat **Don Rock** & **The Bohemian** ... **Black Sultan** and **Mad Max** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Jackie Black** beat **Flash Wheeler** ... **Gino Caruso** beat **Nikolai Volkoff** by disqualification.
(06-20-98)

*—Dan Haney*

**PHILADELPHIA**—ECW at the Woodhaven Sports Center: **Tommy Dreamer** wrestled **D-Von Dudley** to a no-contest ... Tag team champions **Chris Candido** & **Lance Storm** beat **Chris Chetti** & **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **The Blue Meanie** & **Super Nova** beat **Little Guido** & **Tracey Smothers** ... **The Sandman** beat **Buh Buh Ray Dudley** ... **Taz** wrestled to a no-contest with **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Jerry Lynn** defeated **Justin Credible** ... **Axl Rotten** & **Mahoney** beat **Jamie Dundee** & **Danny Doring** ... TV champ **Rob Van Dam** beat **John Kronus** ... **Sabu** beat **Ulf Hermann** ... **New Jack, Tommy Dreamer, The Sandman, & Spike Dudley** beat **D-Von, Buh Buh Ray, & "Big" Dick Dudley** & **Jack Victory**.
(06-20-98)

*—Eric Hable*

**READING**—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at the Cloister: **Tommy Golden** pinned **Prince** ... **Joe Rules** & **Chris Kruger** beat **The Soul Brothers** ... **J.R. Ryder** pinned **Armageddon** ... **Mr. Ooh La La** beat **Jeff Peterson** ... Americas champ **Lance Diamond** beat **Christian Cage** ... **Boogie Woogie Brown** & **King Kong Bundy** beat **Don Montoya** & **Peligro** ... **Col. Jihad Hussein** pinned **Mike Quackenbush** ... **Dave Patera** won a battle royal ... **Sexton Hardcastle** beat **Glen Osbourne** by disqualification ... **Julio Sanchez** pinned heavyweight champ **Tiger Khan** in a lumberjack match to win the title.
(06-19-98)

*—Nicholas Kemp*

**FREELAND**—World Star Wrestling Federation at the YMCA: **The New Jersey Devil** beat **Manslaughter** ... **Jay Love** beat **Grunger Skank** by reverse decision ... **The Hungarian Barbarian** pinned **L.A. Smooth** ... **Kale the Eternal** pinned **The Perfect Creation** ... **The Puerto Rican Mob Squad** wrestled **Chicago Heat, Little Running Bear, & The Violator** to a no-contest ... **Salvatore Bellomo** pinned **Nikolai Volkoff** ... **Doink the Clown** pinned **George Anthony** ... **Headshrinker Samu** beat **Tito Santana** ... **John Rambo** pinned **Lucifer Grimm** in a barbed-wire match.
(06-13-98)

*—Kenny Kilker*

**PITTSBURGH**—WCW at the Palumbo Center: **Chris Adams** defeated **Barry Darsow** ... **Marty Jannetty** beat **Scotty Riggs** ... **Norman Smiley** & **Ciclope** defeated **Los Villanos IV** & **V** ... **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** defeated **Billy Kidman** ... **Public Enemy** beat **High Voltage** in a streetfight ... **Dean Malenko** defeated **Chris Jericho** ... **Booker T** beat **Chris Benoit** ... U.S. champion **Bill Goldberg** pinned **Konnan** ... U.S. champ **Bill Goldberg** pinned **Sting**.
(06-13-98)

*—John S. Pithers*

**LEBANON**—Int'l Pro Wrestling at the Eagles Hall: **Tommy Idol** defeated **Dana Hinkle** by submission ... **Larry Brown** & **Thor** defeated **George Anthony** & **Don Rock** ... **Mike Quackenbush** pinned **Christian York** ... **Paul Mitchell** beat **G.Q. Bronsky** ... **Devon Storm** pinned **Jimmy Cicero** ... **Corporal Punishment** (not the original) pinned **Mark Shrader** ... **Frank Stalletto** won a triangle match over **Julio Sanchez** and **Johnny Graham** ... **Tom Brandi** pinned **King Kong Bundy** to win the heavyweight title.
(06-12-98)

*—Timothy A. Walker*

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**WEST COLUMBIA**—Edisto Pro Wrestling at the City Legion Center: **Jackhammer Muldoon** defeated **Blackhawk** ... **Hunter Thompson** beat **Kevin Kirby** ... **The Pain Gang** defeated **Tim Jackson** & **The Panther** ... **Johnny Z** beat **Wachee** ... **Johnny B. Goode** beat **Nick of Time** ... **The Equalizer** & **Baby Huey** beat **J.D.** & **C.W. Justice** ... **Phil DeCarlo** beat **Mr. Unique** ... **Talon** & **Tony Bonette** defeated **Ice** & **Uptown Larry D**.
(06-20-98)

*—Dan Parris*

**GREENVILLE**—South Carolina Wrestling at the Civic Center: **The Beast** beat **Jeff Hart** ... **Psycho** defeated **American Skytrooper** ... **Max Cortez** defeated **The Prophet** ... **Tank Murdoch** defeated **Doc Adams** ... **Buddy Rose** (not the original) & **Big Daddy Kane** defeated **Shane** & **Cyclone Sawyer** ... **Mike Cannon** & **Jake Mulligan** wrestled **Steve Stampede** & **The Durango Kid** to a double-disqualification ... **Jimmy Valiant** defeated **Nightmare II**.
(06-19-98)

*—Dan Parris*

**CHESTER**—Extreme Wrestling Alliance at the High School Gym: **Damien Poe** pinned **The Phantom** ... **Dan Rossi** defeated **Mike Powers** ... **Alvin Patrick** beat **The Russian Nightmare** ... **Helda Pay** pinned **Suzie Valiant** ... **Doc Adams** & **The American Ninja** beat **David Golden** & **Dale Diamond** by disqualification.
(06-15-98)

*—Mike Davis*

**NEWBERRY**—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Fairgrounds: **The Jester** pinned **J-Dogg** ... Cruiserweight champion **Shane Austin** beat **Steve Anderson** ... **The Nightmare** beat **Randy Mulkey** ... **Lance Gaylord** beat **Loc-Dogg** by disqualification ... Tag team champions **Johnny Dollar** & **The Desperado** wrestled to a double-countout with **Norton** & **Cruiser Lewis**.
(06-15-98)

*—Andy Nichols*

## TENNESSEE

**KNOXVILLE**—Tennessee Mountain Wrestling at Bill Meyers Stadium: Tag team champions **Dr. Dan** & **The Orderly** beat **J.T. Coleminer** & **Chaos** in a non-title match ... **Crazy Bobby B** defeated **Kid Lightning** ... **The Gremlin** beat **The Black Widow** ... **Chris Powers** defeated **Davey Rich**.
(06-21-98)

*—Bill Needham*

**MEMPHIS**—Power Pro Wrestling at WMC-TV studios: **Koko B. Ware** defeated **Blade** ... **Stacy Carter** beat **Paula Bunyon** ... **Billy Travis** beat **Bobby Brawnz** ... **King Mabel** defeated **B.J. Awesome** by disqualification ... **Moondog Spot** beat **The Assassin**.
(06-20-98)

*—Frank Miller*

**CROSSVILLE**—American Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Donny Lucas** defeated **Dr. Dan** ... **Mike Powers** beat **Chaos** ... **TNT** beat **Mighty Heidi** in a mixed match ... **J.T. Coleminer** & **Chaos** defeated **Dr. Dan** & **The Orderly** ... Tag team champs **The Memphis Mafia** wrestled to a no-contest with **The Night Hawks**.
(06-13-98)

*—Bill Needham*

**KINGSPORT**—Appalachian Mountain Wrestling at the Cloud Community Center: **Little Julio** defeated **Allen King** ... **Eight-Ball Jones** defeated **The Hammer** ... **Brian Hayworth** pinned **Russian Assassin I** ... Heavyweight champion **Bryan Wayne** defeated **Skyfire** by disqualification ... **Donnie Dallas** (with **The Duke of New York**) pinned **G-Dog** ... Tag team champs **The Artists** won a four-way match against **Ricky Harrison** & **Eddie Golden, Stan Lee** & **The Soultaker**, and **Pretty Handsome** ... **The Untouchables** defeated **King Family**.
(06-13-98)

*—Brian Smith*

**NASHVILLE**—Music City Wrestling's "NWA 50th Anniversary Show" at the Sports Arena: **Rockin' Randy** beat **Eric Freedom** ... **Frenchy Riviera** beat **Jason Lee** in a bodyslam challenge ... **Terry Golden** beat **Chris Walker** ... **"Skinny" Kenny Arden** beat **Tony Rose** ... **Chris Michaels** & **Shane Eden** beat **Brickhouse Brown** & **Andy Anderson** ... **Rex King** & **Flash Flanagan** wrestled **Steven Dunn** & **Reno Riggins** to a double-disqualification ... Heavyweight champ **Colorado Kid** beat **Wolfie D** in a belt-on-a-pole match.
(06-06-98)

*—Justin Ramey*

## TEXAS

**HOUSTON**—WWF at the Compaq Center: **Taka Michinoku** & **Papichulo** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Scott Taylor** ... **Mark Henry** pinned **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Vader** defeated **Kama Mustafa** ... **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Steve Blackman** ... **The Undertaker** wrestled **Kane** to a double-countout ... **The New Age Outlaws** &

**X-Pac** beat **LOD 2000** & **Darren Drosdov** ... **Bradshaw** beat **Marc Mero** ... European champ **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Ken Shamrock** defeated **Owen Hart** in a submission match ... World champ **Steve Austin** pinned **Mankind**.
(06-19-98)

*—Scott West*

**HOUSTON**—Texas Continental Wrestling at Heartside Hotel: **Grand Carena** beat **Bull Higgins** ... **Tanakus McClain** beat **Ax** ... **Ben Stevens** & **Johnny Rage** defeated **Tiger Montoya** & **Wayne Cornette** ... Lightweight champ **Wild Thing** beat **Matt Trotter** ... **B.J. Savage** beat **Phil Boone** ... **Rocky Salvatore** beat **Tommy Starr** ... **The Norwegian Powerhouse, John Delleano**, & **Lt. Hancock** defeated **Flex Power** & **The Hollywood Swingers**.
(06-19-98)

*—Roderick Bryant*

**DALLAS**—WWF at Reunion Arena: **Taka Michinoku** & **Papi Chulo** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Scott Taylor** ... **Faarooq** beat **Mark Henry** ... **The Disciples of Apocalypse** defeated **The New Midnight Express** ... **Jeff Jarrett** (with **Tennessee Lee**) beat **Steve Blackman** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Kane** in a no-disqualification match ... **Bradshaw** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Ken Shamrock** beat **Owen Hart** by submission ... **X-Pac, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Billy Gunn**, & **Jesse James** beat **Darren Drosdov, Vader**, & **LOD 2000** ... World champion **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin** defeated **Mankind**.
(06-14-98)

*—Veronica Wyles*

## VIRGINIA

**RICHMOND**—WCW at the Coliseum: **Hugh Morris** beat **Mike Enos** ... **Ernest Miller** beat **Alex Wright** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Reese** ... **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **Dean Malenko** pinned **Dave Finlay** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** beat **Raven** ... **Sting** pinned **The Giant**.
(06-21-98)

*—Michael Cheslock*

**STUART**—AIWF "Deal With The Steel" card at Rotary Field (all matches held inside a steel cage): **Phantom I** defeated **The Ultimate Phantom** ... **Cyclone** wrestled **Techno Dragon** to a draw ... **Doc Sampson** beat **Dan Landell** ... **The Tennessee Violence Authority** defeated **Easy Rider, Chucky Baby**, & **Johnny Reb** in a toolbox match ... **Red Scorpion** beat **Major Havoc** in a streetfight after special referee **Cyclone** powerbombed Havoc ... **Neal Leathers** beat **Jackie Anderson** in a bullrope match ... Light heavyweight champ **Jumpin' Jimmy** beat **Luscious Kevin** in a pole match ... Tag team champs **Rick Deezel** & **Daniel Mayes** beat **Generation X** in a weapons match ... **Terminator X** defeated **Brian Danzig** in a barbed-wire match.
(06-20-98)

*—Paul Graham*

**ALEXANDRIA**—IPWA at the Secret Cove: **Frank Stalletto** (with **Notorious Norm**) pinned **Mark Shrader** ... **Shorty Smalls** defeated **The Worm** ... **Otto Schwanz** (with **Count Grog**) pinned **Dan Rage** after Grog threw powder into Rage's face ... **Chris Stephenson** beat **Joey Matthews** ... **Christian York** pinned **Julio Sanchez** to win the light heavyweight title ... **Big Slam** pinned **R.J. Blades** ... **Buddy Landell** (substituting for the injured **Cueball Carmichael**) pinned **Jimmy Cicero** (managed by **Vinnie Gambini**) to win the heavyweight title.
(06-13-98)

*—Timothy A. Walker & Jeff Amdur*

## WEST VIRGINIA

**MARTINSBURG**—Championship Pro Wrestling at the Cadillac Club: **Nicky Pisghetti** pinned **Masked Orderly I** ... **The Chain Gang** defeated **The Combat Kid** in a handicap match ... **Switchblade** defeated **Juggernaut** by disqualification ... **Bubba Nuckles** pinned **Shorty Smalls** ... **Mark Mest** & **Maxx Crimson** beat **Mohammed Kane** & **The Cremator** ... **Bob Keller** pinned **Diablos Macabre** ... **Shane Shadows** beat **The Honky Tonk Man**.
(06-21-98)

*—Timothy A. Walker*

**BUCKHANNON**—Atlantic Coast Championship Wrestling at the Upshur County Armory: **Brian Logan** beat heavyweight champion **Eddie Edmonds** by countout ... **Buddy Rose** defeated **Dave Donovan** ... **Joey Austin** beat **Bob Brown** ... Tag team champions **Death** & **Destruction** beat **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** by reverse decision ... **Lance Malinowski** defeated **R.J. Stomper** ... Lightweight champion **The Bounty Hunter** wrestled **The Red Devil** to a draw.
(06-13-98)

*—James E. Hawkins Jr.*

# INTERNATIONAL

## CANADA

**JOLIETTE, QUEBEC**—Northern Championship Wrestling's "Challenge Mania VI" at the Joliette Arena: **Black Eagle** defeated **Pat Thompson** ... **Esel Krap** beat **Visceral Vince** ... **Access Denied** beat **Mike Lyons** & **Steven the Sweet Boy** ... **The Cosa Nostra** beat Quebec tag team champions **Nightmare** & **Marc the Grizzly**, **The Vipers**, and **The Blood Brothers** in a four-way match to win the title ... **Frank Blues** defeated **Phil Belanger** ... **Alexander the Magnificent** beat Inter-city champion **Daniel Leon** and **Dream Killer** in a triple threat match to win the title ... **Andy Ellison** beat **Marz** in a bodyslam match ... **Iceman** beat Quebec champion **Syl the Sadist** to win the title.
(06-13-98)

*—Bertrand Hebert*

## JAPAN

**TOKYO**—All-Japan at Budokan Hall: **Takeshi Morishima** & **Yoshinobu Kanemaru** defeated **Makoto Hashi** & **Kentaro Shiga** ... PWF junior heavyweight champion **Maunukea Mossman** defeated **Satoru Asako** ... **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** & **Yoshinari Ogawa** defeated **Gedo** & **Jado** ... **Giant Baba, Rusher Kimura**, & **Mitsuo Momota** defeated **Jun Izumida, Haruka Eigen**, & **Masa Fuchi** ... **Steve Williams** & **Wolf Hawkfield** beat **Masao Inoue** & **Takao Omori** ... **Johnny Smith** & **Johnny Ace** defeated **David Heath** & **Giant Kamala II** ... **Akira Taue** defeated **Bobby Duncum Jr.** ... **Gary Albright** & **Yoshihiro Takayama** beat **Tamon Honda** & **Jun Akiyama** ... **Kenta Kobashi** defeated Triple Crown champ **Toshiaki Kawada** to win the titles.
(06-12-98)

*—Koichi Yoshizawa*

**TOKYO**—New Japan at Budokan Hall: **Tadao Yasuda** beat **Yutaka Yoshie** ... **Satoshi Kojima** beat **Kazuyuki Fujita** ... **Manabu Nakanishi** beat **Osamu Nishimura** ... **Hayato Nanjyo, Dr. Wagner Jr., Kendo Ka Shin, El Samurai**, & **Jushin Liger** beat **Masakazu Fukuda, Kaz Hayashi, Tatsuhito Takaiwa, Shinjiro Otani**, & **Koji Kanemoto** ... **Kensuke Sasaki** & **Kazuo Yamazaki** beat **Michael Wall Street** & **Big Titan** ... **Don Frye** beat **Yoshiaki Fujiwara** ... **Masa Chono** & **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** beat **Shiro Koshinaka** & **Genichiro Tenryu** to win the vacant IWGP tag team title ... **Tatsumi Fujinami** beat **Shinya Hashimoto**.
(06-05-98)

*—Koichi Yoshizawa*

## MEXICO

**PIEDRAS NEGRAS**—ICW at the Plaza de Toros: **Mascarita Sagrada** & **Octagoncito** beat **Pequeno Pierroth** & **Piratita Morgan** ... **John Saxon, Mr. Wrestling III**, & **Solomon Grundy** beat **The Natural Born Killer, Manbasa**, & **One Man Gang** by disqualification ... **Antifaz** & **Arandu** beat **Super Krazy** & **Mosco de la Merced** ... **Vampiro Canadiense, Tarzan Boy**, & **Super Porky** beat **Black Magic, Pirata Morgan**, & **Rey Bucanero**.
(06-02-98)

*—Brett Wolfe*

## SOUTH AFRICA

**BENONI**—All-Stars Wrestling at Northmead Mall: **Prince of Africa** beat **Savage** ... **Scorpion** beat **P.J. Black** ... **Sunny Surf** defeated **Gypsy Roulette**.
(06-20-98)

*—Sean Reynolds*

**PRETORIA**—All-Stars Wrestling at the Quagga Centre: **Dirty Angel** pinned **Terri Middoux** ... **Danie Voges** beat **Giant Warrior** by disqualification ... **Greased Lightning** pinned **Vemax**.
(06-18-98)

*—Sean Reynolds*

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY DECEMBER

## FLORIDA

**TAMPA**—NWA at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory: Heavyweight champ **Lou Thesz** beat **Bob Orton** ... **Eddie Graham, Don Curtis**, & **Mark Lewin** beat **The Assassins** ... **Frank Valois** beat **Gladiator Ray Andrews** ... **Jack Allen** beat **Steve Kovacs**.
(12-04-63)

*—PWI archives*

## MASSACHUSETTS

**BOSTON**—WWF at Boston Garden: **Paul Roma** beat **Barry O** ... **Tony Atlas** beat **Moondog Spot** ... **Jim Powers** beat **Steve Lombardi** ... **Randy Savage** beat **Rick Steamboat** ... **Bruno Sammartino** beat **Roddy Piper** by disqualification ... **Jesse Ventura** beat Intercontinental champ **Tito Santana** by countout ... **Hercules Hernandez** beat **Scott McGhee** ... **Adrian Adonis** beat **Lanny Poffo** ... **Brutus Beefcake** & **Greg Valentine** beat **The Killer Bees**.
(12-07-85)

*—PWI archives*

## PENNSYLVANIA

**PHILADELPHIA**—East Coast Wrestling at the Arena: **Chief Jay Strongbow** beat **Miguel Feliciano** ... **Gorilla Monsoon** beat **Carlos Parata** & **Joe Turko** in a handicap match ... **Ivan Koloff** beat **John L. Sullivan** ... **Pedro Morales** beat **Chuck Richards** ... **The Mongols** beat **Pete Sanchez** & **Tomas Marin**.
(12-12-70)

*—PWI archives*

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Ahmed Johnson • Mankind

**4th Series**
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Justin • Hawk Bradshaw • Vader #2 • Hunter Hearst Helmsley

**5th Series**
"Stone Cold Steve Austin • Sycho Sid • Rocky Maivia
Flash Funk • Ken Shamrock • Savio Vega

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| Psycho Sid | Steve Austin#1-4 | Legion of Doom |
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Factory sealed by Grand Theft Records (1992)
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*(All figures mint on card)* by San Francisco Toymakers

**1996 WCW 2nd Series Figures**

| | |
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| Ric Flair (green tights and boots) | $15.00 ea. |
| Sting (pink and yellow tights) | $15.00 ea. |
| Hulk Hogan #2 (yellow shirt w/ belt) | $15.00 ea. |
| Vader #2 (black and red) | $15.00 ea. |

**1997 WCW 3rd Series Figures**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hulk Hogan (Pre-ring yellow/red outfit) | $10.00 ea. |
| Sting (new black and pink outfit) | $10.00 ea. |
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7 1/2" Action Figures
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| | |
|---|---|
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| Scott Hall | Kevin Nash |
| The Giant | Lex Lugar |
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SPECIAL TWO FIGURE PACK
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**This is a 2 figure pack that includes Hollywood Hogan and Dennis Rodman**
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WCW Main Event 1995 Trading Cards by Cardz Inc. These came out in 1995 and contain Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Macho Man Savage, Arn Anderson, etc. *Some* packs contain randomly inserted autographed cards.
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- Shows another 6 man tage team match Freebirds vs. Missinglink, Ackbar and Super D2.
- Shows Cindy Lauper with the Freebirds in the WWF debut.
- Shows Michael Hayes and the Badstreet bands first musical concert as he sings all his hits off "Badstreet USA" Album
- Shows parts of another Badstreet concert from a Dallas Night Club
- Shows another concert where the Von Erichs come on stage which ends in fighting on stage.
- Shows the second video "Boys are back in town" with wrestling highlights and shows the behind the scenes taping session.

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# between falls

*(Continued from page 5)*

If watching Goldberg defend his titles against "contenders" like Reese, Disco Inferno, and Kendall Windham is your idea of excitement, then WCW is the way to go. If your idea of excitement is listening to Steve Austin concern himself more with the owner of the federation than defending his title, I guess the WWF is the way to go.

Personally, I prefer top action *in the ring*, as compared to what WCW and the WWF have to offer. ECW wrestlers have proven *inside the ring* that the federation's championship should be called a world title.

CHRIS BRIDGES
Winder, GA

## BAD BACK, ER, BREAK

I am so sick of people putting Shawn Michaels down for losing to Steve Austin. The man was the greatest WWF champion ever. When he was healthy, and even sometimes when he wasn't, Michaels defended that belt day in and day out.

His second title reign was short-lived due to a knee injury, but his third title reign was impressive. I believe that if wasn't for his bad back and Mike Tyson, "The Heartbreak Kid" would still be WWF World champion.

JORDAN HARRISON
Alhambra, CA

## SICK OF IT ALL

I just watched King of the Ring, and I was vastly disappointed with everything! First there was Chyna's interference that helped X-Pac defeat Owen Hart. If X-Pac is such a good wrestler, why does he need help?

Second, Steve Austin should have won that match against Kane, but again, somebody interfered. This time it was The Undertaker. I am truly tired of seeing matches like this, and after seeing this pay-per-view, I might give it up.

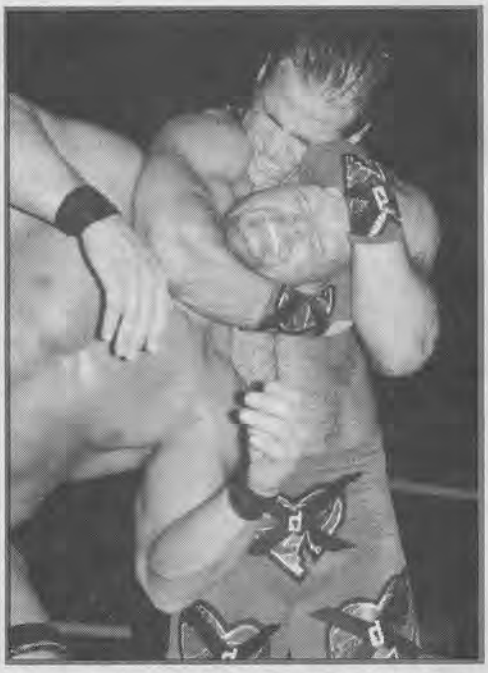
JENNIFER WILDCAT
Hopkinsville, KY

## STEVE WHO?

I still don't get it with this Steve Austin. What is so special about him?

Like Lex Luger, Austin has been an underachiever throughout most of his career. Sure he's WWF champ now. But so what. Who has he beaten? He beat an *injured* Shawn Michaels for the belt with a fast count from Mike Tyson. Austin is a foul-mouthed, finger-gesturing guy who gets away with a lot more than what the NWO does. This same guy was humiliated by Mikey Whipwreck, beaten by Jim Duggan in 27 seconds, beaten by Savio Vega several times, and humbled by true greats like Bret Hart and Rick Steamboat.

CECIL MILLER
Vanceboro, NC □



**Despite losing the WWF title to Steve Austin at WrestleMania XIV, Shawn Michaels gave a gutsy performance—bad back and all. Jordan Harrison considers "The Heartbreak Kid" the best WWF champ ever.**

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**BY CARDINAL (1997)**
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Shawn DGenX

DGenX Logo

D-Generation X

Undertaker Buried Alive

Austin- Do Not Trust

Sable

Sham Rock

## WWF LIFESIZE STAND-UPS

**by Advanced Graphics (1996)**

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**Standups are $30.00 each.**

***Choose from:*** Shawn Michaels, The Undertaker, Bret Hart, Diesel

**Note:** These are only available to our United States customers. We can not send these overseas to other countries due to size of these. For U.S. customers, must give street address (no P.O. boxes).

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(Continued from page 21)

the Beach could only have been the start of Chavo's re-transformation. When Chavo looks at his uncle, he sees the cheating Eddy, the Eddy who urged him to break the rules, the Eddy who has always been his hero.

Eddy has sent a horrible mixed message to Chavo: Do things one way, then do things a little different. Chavo had finally caught on to Eddy's teachings, then Eddy changed his mind.

"There's a serious problem here," said famed wrestling psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil. "Chavo looks up to Eddy. He admires him. It's always been that way. And maybe under normal circumstances, Chavo would be willing to change back. But these aren't normal circumstances, because Eddy seems to have struck a deep and resounding chord in Chavo. Perhaps he has uncovered the real Chavo: a mean person, a man with deep psychological problems. Can Eddy save Chavo? Maybe. But in my opinion, only professional counseling can save Chavo."

As Ultimo Dragon said, Chavo's mind has been poisoned.

There may be *no* antidote. □

Eddy may have to inflict a lot of pain on Chavo Jr. to get him to listen to him again. Unfortunately, Chavo has a long way to fall before he can see the error of his ways.


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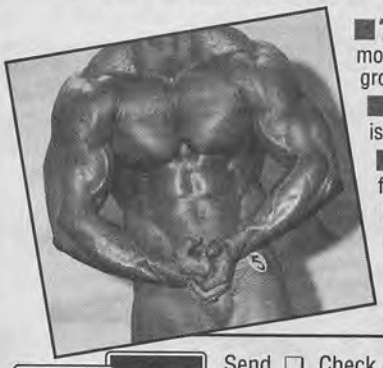

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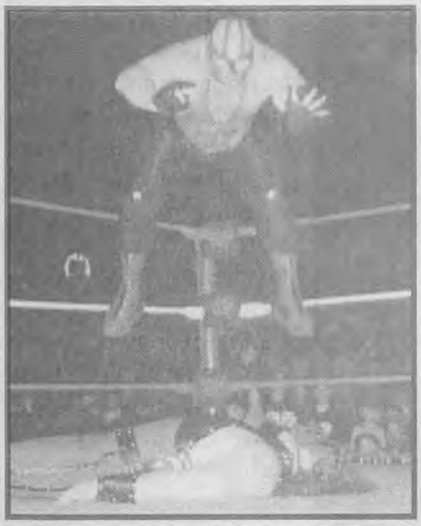
# vader

(Continued from page 34)



**Imagine how much more brutal and agile Vader would be if he dropped 40 pounds! Incredible ... and incredibly destructive!**

ropes to execute his Vader bomb splash or his version of the moonsault. However, he often takes too long to execute the moves and winds up missing his opponent. Stick to a solid mat game and dust off the old power bomb.

**STEP 4: Bring back the old headgear.** Vader's old smoke-spewing helmet always helped him make a flashy ring entrance and served to intimidate foes. By bringing it back, he could create a buzz among the fans; it could symbolize a "new" Vader as well. Maybe it would catch some promoters' eyes, too.

**STEP 5: Be yourself.** Vader needs to forget about the cheers or the boos of the fans and wrestle aggressively against whomever is placed in front of him. If he feels the urge to cheat, then cheat. He should do whatever it takes to win, just like Steve Austin, Mankind, or Kane would.

**STEP 6: Target Mark Henry.** Henry is billed as "The World's Strongest Man." He's also very green and one-dimensional. By thoroughly humiliating one of the strongest men in wrestling (he has already had some uninspired matches against him), Vader can get back on the fast track. It would make fans forget the losses to Kane and re-establish Vader as a true powerhouse.

**STEP 7: Make challenges.** Vader should be vocal and aggressive. He should go to the ring during other people's matches and demand title shots. It might earn him some hefty fines, but it would also get attention. No one wants to be made to look like a coward on national television, and Vader could use that to his advantage.

**STEP 8: Talk to Dan Severn and Ken Shamrock.** Vader did some shootfighting in Japan, to mixed results. An ultimate fight style would serve someone of Vader's size perfectly. By adding some submission holds to his arsenal, Vader could become an even more lethal weapon—and surprise some opponents along the way.

**STEP 9: Forget past feuds.** The key to returning to former glory is for Vader to forget his recent tragedies. He shouldn't get bogged down trying to redeem himself for past losses. He should put the blinders on and beat whatever opponents Cornette and the WWF put in front of him. The best way for Vader to earn revenge is to take the WWF belt. Then, if he feels like settling scores, he should go for it.

**STEP 10: This is the one we hesitate to even suggest. The final step would be for Vader to hurt someone—seriously.** To rekindle the Vader aura, Vader has to go back to his ultraviolent ways. Attack early. Continue delivering punishment after the bell. Send opponents back to the dressing room on a stretcher. Or to the hospital. Or into retirement. Once Vader regains that killer instinct and starts breaking bones, promoters will have no choice but to take him seriously again. □

IT'S COMING!

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Ranking The Top 500 Stars In Wrestling

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4739/07-98

(Continued from page 23)

Smoking a cigarette in the ring (above) is The Giant's way of dismissing his opponents (left) as insignificant and easily beaten.

**say this: When I had to select a partner to go against Goldberg and Greene, I chose Curt Hennig, a consummate wrestler.**

**BROCK:** You know, Giant, it surprises me to say this, but I agree with you wholeheartedly on this.

**GIANT: I knew there was a reason I liked you, Brock.**

**BROCK:** Now, about this smoking kick. Have you heard of the nicotine patch?

**LENKER:** Does this mean you're going to be issuing challenges against Malone or Rodman in the future?

**GIANT: Rodman has the right attitude for NWO Hollywood. I got no problem with him. But the other guys don't deserve to be in the ring with me, and that's my point. Where in the world, other than in WCW, can a guy like Karl Malone walk into the thick of one of the biggest events of the year without any training? Do you think the NFL would let me play quarterback in the Pro Bowl this year because I'm a great wrestler? Of course not! And not only is WCW allowing this to happen, but they're actually proud of it! "Diamond" Dallas Page and Karl Malone on *The Tonight Show?* Excuse me, but haven't I beaten DDP dozens of times? Had Malone ever even wrestled before? It makes me sick. If you want to make it in wrestling, you've got to pay your dues, and The Giant is ready to collect.**

**MURPHY:** But how does joining NWO Hollywood help you fight this invasion of non-wrestlers?

**GIANT: What rejoining the NWO does is it makes The Giant dangerous again. For too long I've been stuck in meaningless matches and dead-end feuds. It took me a while, but I've learned that winners don't make it to the top in WCW. You get big-money matches by making a big splash, and nobody makes a bigger splash than me.**

**BROCK:** Wait a second. I think I'm starting to understand this. First you turned against Sting to return to rulebreaking. Then you started wrestling more handicap matches to restore your mystique, and even went so far as to smoke a ciggie or two during your matches to show how easy it was beating your opponents to a pulp. Now that Goldberg has unseated Hogan, you're back in prime contention for the World title, and you've got friends like Hogan and Hennig to help you on your way.

**GIANT: Man, Brock, you must have taken a double-dose of smart pills this morning.**

**BROCK:** It's only just vitamin C.

**LENKER:** But if that's true, that means that you expected Goldberg to beat both Scott Hall and Hogan on July 6. Is that why you weren't around to lend Hogan a hand in that title defense?

**GIANT: You're way out of line, Lenker. I don't blame Scotty for losing that match. He had been out of the ring for a long time, and he was a little rusty, but he still took the fight straight to that football goon. And the only reason Hollywood doesn't have the belt is because Malone Pearl-Harbored Curt outside the ring. All Hollywood saw was Curt unconscious outside the ring. Wouldn't you be distracted if you saw one of your teammates out cold and you didn't know what happened to him?**

**MURPHY:** So what exactly are your goals right now? Are you gunning for the World title? Are you still targeting Greene? What about unfin-

ished business with Sting?

***GIANT: What I'm doing is living the high life once again. I'm back in the limousines, smoking the finest cigars, and dining with the finest women. So Goldberg pulled off a fluke on Hollywood. Big deal. The white and black is too good for the belt to be out of the family for long. Goldberg's a little bug, and I'm a gallon of Raid. Sting? He's not even a bug. He's more like that mold that grows on the potato salad in the back of your refrigerator. Greene is worse than that.***

**BROCK:** Giant, over the past couple of years, I've really seen you take your game up to another level. I've seen you pay your dues. I've seen you learn some technical wrestling skills, even a pretty darned impressive dropkick. I think you've got some real skills, and that's why I'm worried to see you hanging around Hogan. You don't have to be an old-timer to remember the friendships Hogan has destroyed when a world title is on the line. He even challenged his fellow NWO member Randy Savage for the belt. Do you really think things will be different for you?

**GIANT: Old man, WCW is where the big boys play, and I'm the biggest boy of them all. I can watch out for myself, and I suggest that the rest of WCW looks out for me as well.** □

The Giant puts the squeeze on Sting, and is looking to put the squeeze on anyone else who stands between him and the World title.


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# PWI DREAM

## Final Round

# MICHAELS & AUSTIN TOP HALL & NASH

**This thrilling bout between two of the most intriguing and volatile tandems of all-time concludes our third *PWI* Dream Tag Team Tournament. Find out what happened when these former championship teams met in the final round!**

AFTER SIFTING THROUGH thousands of ballots here at the offices of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, we've finally determined the winners of the third *PWI* Dream Tag Team Tournament: "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin and Shawn Michaels.

But earning a victory over former WCW World tag team champs Scott Hall and Kevin Nash was not easy for Austin and Michaels—not even in the highly imaginative rings of a dream tourney. As expected, the voting was close: Austin and Michaels got 54 percent of all votes cast. Naturally, we figured the final round would garner the most fan interest, but even we were shocked by the number of ballots that came our way.

Much of the interest in this match centered around its obvious WCW vs. WWF overtones, as well as the long and storied history of the participants.

Of course, Austin defeated Michaels at WrestleMania XIV for the WWF World title, but that was less than a year after they beat Owen Hart and Davey Boy Smith for the WWF World tag team title. Then there's the Michaels-Kevin Nash (Diesel) connection. And we can't forget about the Diesel-Razor Ramon (Hall) feud over the WWF Intercontinental belt, either.

Ultimately, Austin and Michaels found it impossible to co-exist, while Scott Hall chose NWO Hollywood over Nash and the rest of NWO Wolfpac at Slamboree. Still, both teams were able to overcome their semifinal opponents, who also found their partnerships on the rocks. Austin and Michaels beat the warring Steiners, while Hall and Nash disposed of The Road Warriors, who feuded briefly before reuniting as LOD 2000.

David Anderson of St. Paul, Minnesota, focused on in-the-ring talent rather than extracurricular hostilities when predicting the outcome:

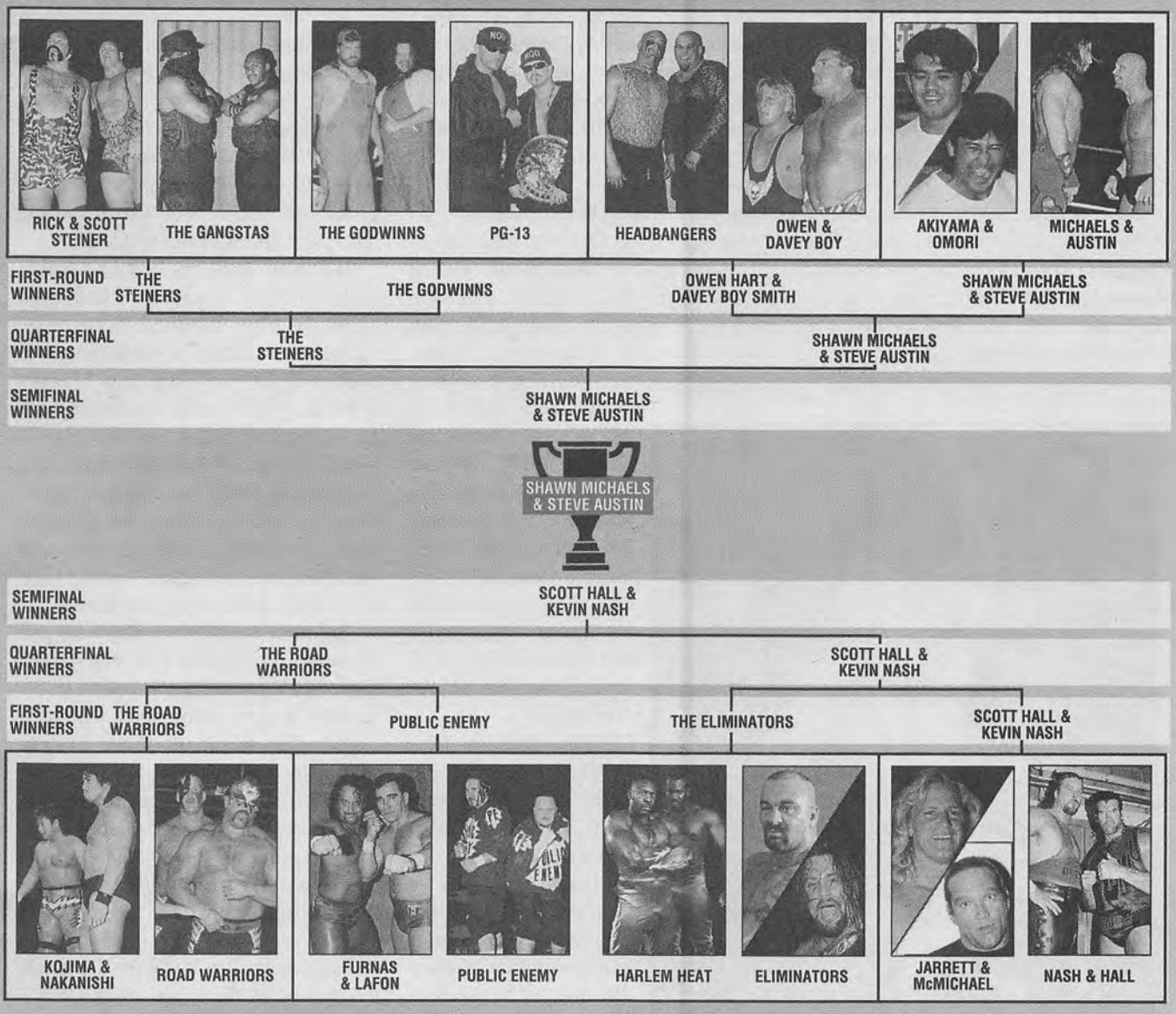
"You can put Austin, Hall, and Nash in the same category," he wrote. "They're all great brawlers. Shawn Michaels has more scientific ability than all three, and his pure wrestling skills would carry him and Austin to victory. Sure, Hall and Nash are big and strong, but Michaels has always fared well against bigger opponents. Austin is tough enough to neutralize Hall and Nash, so Shawn's back could stay fresh. It would be a brutal match, but Michaels would be the difference."

Mary Martin of Los Angeles agreed with the outcome, but she figured Austin would be the key to victory. "'Stone-Cold' Steve Austin's 'stunner' wins every time," she wrote. "I don't know how useful Michaels would be with that sore back of his. Besides, he has ties to Hall and Nash that go all the way back to the Diesel/Razor Ramon days in the WWF. Austin would have to depend on himself to win it all. Like he says, 'Don't trust no one.'"

Wrote WWF fan Carol Corke of Fishkill, New York: "A few years ago I would have expected Hall and Nash to carry the action, but all that NWO

# TOURNAMENT

## FAN BALLOT




garbage has slowed them down. Austin and Michaels are sharp because they focus so much on wrestling, not like Hall and Nash, who seem to do nothing but talk sometimes. Even though Shawn has an injured back, he's used to wrestling hurt. Put simply, WWF athletes are tougher than WCW's. I also think Austin and Shawn would put aside their differences for the good of the company, whereas Hall and Nash would bicker over the NWO. Hall would turn against Nash and hold him so Michaels could deliver his 'sweet chin music.' Then 'Stone-Cold' would 'stun' him and get the pin.

So, WWF champion "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin emerges as the big winner in this year's Dream Tournaments. Not only does he own one-half of our tag title, but he also triumphed in the *PWI* Dream Singles Tournament by beating Dean Malenko in the finals.

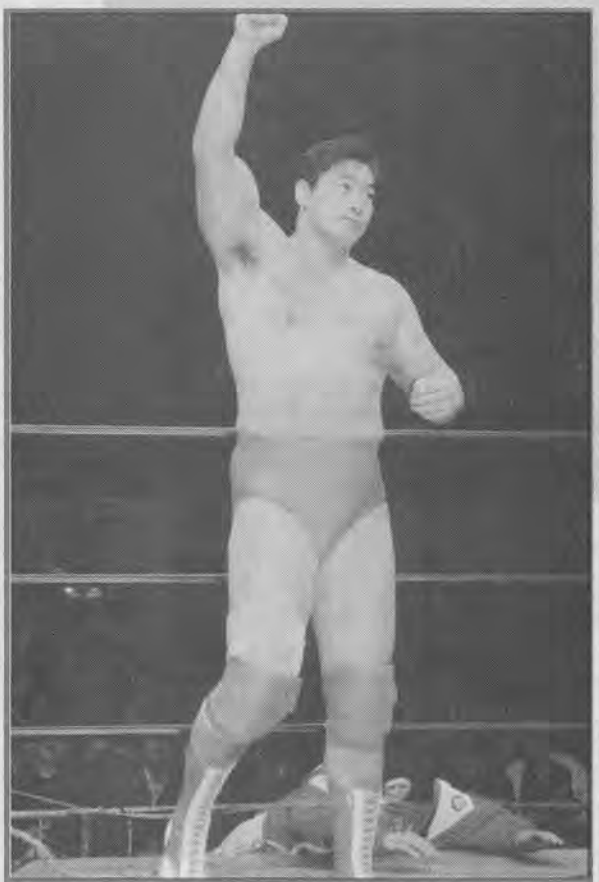
# the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

PEOPLE CALLED HIS win a fluke. They questioned his consistency. They said he wouldn't be able to hold on to the championship for long. But **Kenta Kobashi** is already proving his critics wrong. Case in point: Kobashi made his first successful defense of the All-Japan Triple Crown against the very dangerous **Johnny Ace**. Things won't be easing up on the new champ, either, as top contender **Jun Akiyama** stands ready to challenge Kobashi next.

All-Japan recently welcomed two stars of Michinoku Pro, as **Super Delfin** and **Naohiro Hoshikawa** took the promotion by storm by defeating AJPW regulars **Kentaro Shiga** and **Makoto Hashi**. Also originally slated to appear was Delfin's usual partner, **Gran Naniwa**, but he dislocated his shoulder just days beforehand.

In New Japan Pro Wrestling, one of the world's premier heavyweight tournaments, the annual G1 Climax, was set to kick off at press time. The lineup reads like a who's who of Japanese superstars. Among those scheduled to compete: NWO Japan stars **Keiji Muto** and **Masahiro Chono**, NJPW tag team sensations **Manabu Nakanishi** and **Satoshi Kojima**, former WAR kingpin **Genichiro Tenryu**, submission specialist **Kazuo Yamazaki**, and former IWGP heavyweight champion **Shinya Hashimoto**.



Kenta Kobashi's victory over Toshiaki Kawada for the All-Japan Triple Crown in June was considered by many to be an upset. But he has been proving that he's a worthy champ.

Championship Committee members in NJPW have made public their intent to institute a new title, this one exclusive to the junior heavyweight division. The new IWGP junior heavyweight tag team title was to be given to the winners of an August tournament. In the past, NJPW briefly had a tag team division for the juniors that was dominated by the unusual pairing of **Chris Benoit** and **Shinjiro Otani**.

**Yuji Nagata**, who has spent more than a year competing for WCW, is on his way back to New Japan, where insiders are expecting him to develop into a superstar. While NJPW fans are excited to have the well-traveled Nagata back, they were also disappointed by the announcement of **The Great Kabuki's** retirement. Kabuki is slated to make his farewell appearance on September 7.

The long-awaited meeting of two of Japan's top female athletes has finally been booked. The AAAW singles title will be up for grabs when veteran **Devil Masami** takes on the much younger **Dynamite Kansai**. JWP, one of nearly a dozen women's wrestling promotions in Japan, will host this much-anticipated match in Osaka.

Hardcore wrestling legend **Atsushi Onita** of FMW has issued a challenge to some other hardcore wrestlers, namely those in ECW. Onita wants to team with fellow FMW star **Masato Tanaka** (who is currently on tour with ECW) against **Sabu** and **The Sandman** in a barbed-wire exploding death cage match. Onita has plenty of experience in such matches. As of press time, it hadn't been determined whether such a match would take place in Japan or the United States.

Based in the extreme northeast part of Japan, Michinoku Pro offers fans some of the most diverse action in the country, and its talent roster will get a boost when members of the **Toryumon** (the gym operated by **Ultimo Dragon**) join Michinoku Pro regulars on the next tour. Dragon is looking to give his students some valuable experience and has already used his influence to open doors for his pupils in WCW.

Michinoku Pro had seen its roster diminished by the exodus to the WWF of some of its top stars. Together, Mich Pro officials and Dragon hope to forge a working relationship that will benefit both sides. There has already been some talk about a potential rematch between Dragon and **The Great Sasuke**; the two have not battled since Sasuke lost the J-Crown to Dragon in October 1996.

*Soo da sayonara!* □

# the MEXICO REPORT

By John Molinaro

THE MAIN EVENT of AAA's TripleMania 6-A spectacular in Chihuahua on June 7 was a memorable one. **Kickboxer** beat **Heavy Metal** in that bout, which was contested inside a steel cage and under streetfight rules. What was most interesting about it was the stipulation that one of AAA's senior referees—either **Pepe Casas** or **Tirantes**—would have his head shaved afterward.

Casas, who just happens to be Heavy Metal's father, and Tirantes have been at odds for years over Casas' contention that Tirantes constantly shows favoritism to the *rudo* wrestlers in matches he officiates. As it turned out, Heavy Metal lost, so Casas is now bald.

In other TripleMania results, **Perro Aguayo Sr.** and **Perro Aguayo Jr.** captured the Mexican National tag title from **Fuerza Guerrera** and **Mosco de la Merced II**; **Latin Lover, La Parka Jr., Blue Demon Jr.**, and **Mascara Sagrada Jr.** defeated **Los Vipers (Cibernetico, Histeria, Maniaco,** and **Psicosis II)** by disqualification when the *rudos* power-bombed Latin Lover through a table during the third fall; **Abismo Negro, Electro Shock,** and **Mini Abismo Negro** (a midget wrestler) defeated **Octagon, Pentagon,** and **Octagoncito** (a midget wrestler) in a mixed match; and **Venum II** and **R-15** won an "incredible partners" elimination tag match (in which a *rudo* is teamed with a *technico*) by beating **Oscar Sevilla** and **Charly Manson.**

The final two men in the ring for the "incredible partners" match were Sevilla and Venum II, but Sevilla simply laid down and allowed his fellow *technico* to score the pin. The show was the first of three TripleMania cards to be held this summer.

EMLL staged its 65th anniversary show at Arena Mexico in Mexico City on June 5 before a sellout crowd of 18,000 fans. The main event, billed as *La Guerra de Titanes* (Clash of the Titans) saw **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.** defeat **Steele** in a mask vs. mask match. These two had been feuding since last year, when Steele upset Jalisco in the finals of EMLL's annual Grand Prix Tournament, then defeated him for the CMLL heavyweight title a month later. After splitting the first two falls, Jalisco scored the pin in the third fall using a small package.

Steele was then forced to unmask in mid-ring and revealed himself to be **Sean Morely** (a.k.a. the WWF's **Val Venis**).

Other results from the show saw Mr. Aguila make his return to EMLL, where he teamed with **Negro Casas** and **Shocker** to defeat **El Hijo del Santo, Black Warrior,** and **Satanico,** plus **The Headhunters** and **Atlantis** defeat **Cien Caras, Apolo Dantes,** and **Bestia Salvaje.**

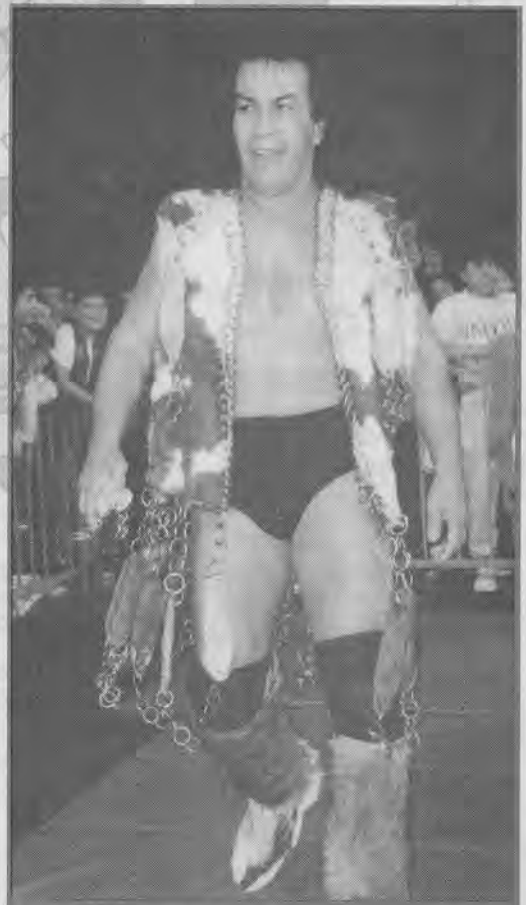
**"Black Magic" Norman Smiley** has left Promo Azteca and returned to EMLL to join other former Azteca stars such as **Lizmark Sr., Lizmark Jr.,** and **Vampiro Canadiense,** who returned on June 12 at Arena Mexico.

While Lizmark Sr. competed in a six-man tag match on the undercard of that show, Vampiro and Lizmark Jr. sat at ringside during the Rayo de Jalisco Jr. and Headhunters vs. Steele, **Cien Caras,** and **Mascara Ano Dos Mil** main event.

Steele, wrestling for the first time after losing his mask the previous week, confronted Vampiro, and the two had a staredown.

In Promo Azteca news, **Pierroth Jr.** defeated **The Kiss** in a mask vs. mask match on June 4 in Tijuana. Several EMLL stars competed on the card, as the main event saw El Hijo del Santo, **Felino,** and **Mascara Sagrada** defeat **Psicosis, Blue Panther,** and **Dr. Wagner Jr.**

The upcoming mask vs. mask match between **Pierroth Jr.** and **La Parka** has been postponed. The match, originally scheduled to take place on July 20 in Nuevo Laredo, has to be rescheduled now that La Parka has suffered a torn ACL that will sideline him until October. No word on exactly when and where the match will take place. □

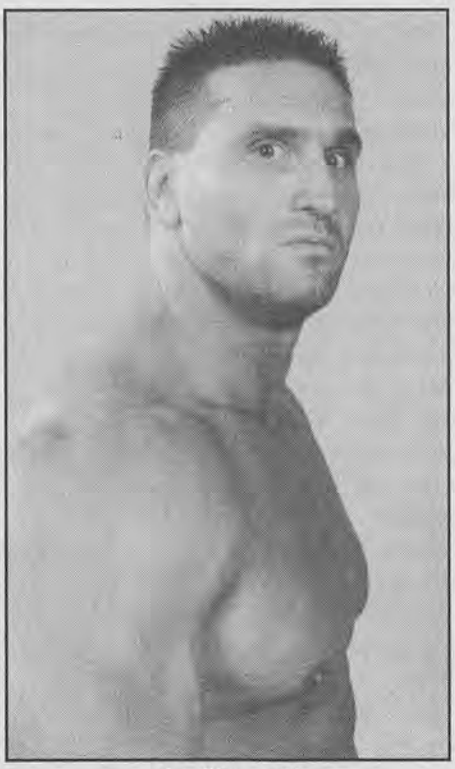


Nearly 30 years into his pro career, Perro Aguayo Sr. is still winning titles. He and his son, Perro Jr., captured the Mexican national tag team title at AAA's June 7 TripleMania card.

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

## TOP 10

1. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   *252, Victoria, TX*
   **(1) WWF World champion**
2. **BILL GOLDBERG**
   *270, Tulsa, OK*
   **(2) WCW World champion**
3. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   *328, parts unknown*
   **(6) No. 2 contender: WWF World title**
4. **BRET HART**
   *235, Calgary, Alberta*
   **(-) U.S. heavyweight champion**
5. **KEN SHAMROCK**
   *235, San Bernardino, CA*
   **(4) No. 3 contender: WWF World title**
6. **KENTA KOBASHI**
   *261, Fukuchiyama, Japan*
   **(7) All-Japan Triple Crown Champion**
7. **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**
   *279, Greenwich, CT*
   **(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title**
8. **CHRIS JERICHO**
   *225, Vancouver, British Columbia*
   **(-) WCW cruiserweight champion**
9. **ROB VAN DAM**
   *237, Battle Creek, MI*
   **(10) ECW TV champion**
10. **TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
    *234, Oita, Japan*
    **(9) IWGP heavyweight champion**



*Ken Shamrock*

## TAG TEAMS

1. **KANE & MANKIND**
   *Combined weight: 622 pounds*
   **(-) WWF World tag team champions**
2. **NWO WOLFPAC**
   *Combined weight: N/A*
   **(-) WCW World tag team champions**
3. **BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**
   *Combined weight: 496 pounds*
   **(1) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title**
4. **SHIRO KOSHINAKA & GENICHIRO TENRYU**
   *Combined weight: 555 pounds*
   **(-) IWGP tag team champions**
5. **SABU & ROB VAN DAM**
   *Combined weight: 447 pounds*
   **(3) ECW tag team champions**
6. **TOSHIAKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE**
   *Combined weight: 510 pounds*
   **(-) All-Japan International tag team champions**
7. **EIGHT-BALL & SKULL**
   *Combined weight: 517 pounds*
   **(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title**
8. **LOD 2000**
   *Combined weight: 560 pounds*
   **(6) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title**
9. **OWEN HART & ROCKY MAIVIA**
   *Combined weight: 499 pounds*
   **(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title**
10. **AXL ROTTEN & MAHONEY**
    *Combined weight: 663 pounds*
    **(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title**

## WCW

*World Champion:*
**BILL GOLDBERG**
*(1) 270, Tulsa, OK*

1. **BRET HART** *(7) 235, Calgary, Alberta*
2. **CHRIS JERICHO** *(6) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia*
3. **STING** *(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
4. **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE** *(-) 260, Tampa, FL*
5. **HOLLYWOOD HOGAN** *(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA*
6. **CURT HENNIG** *(-) 235, Minneapolis, MN*
7. **BOOKER T** *(3) 250, Harlem, NY*
8. **REY MISTERIO JR.** *(-) 140, San Diego, CA*
9. **THE GIANT** *(4) 430, parts unknown*
10. **EDDY GUERRERO** *(-) 221, El Paso, TX*

## WWF

*World Champion:*
**STEVE AUSTIN**
*(C) 252, Victoria, TX*

1. **ROCKY MAIVIA** *(1) 272, Pearl City, HI*
2. **THE UNDERTAKER** *(4) 328, parts unknown*
3. **KEN SHAMROCK** *(3) 235, San Bernardino, CA*
4. **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** *(6) 279, Greenwich, CT*
5. **MANKIND** *(5) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*
6. **KANE** *(2) 345, parts unknown*
7. **X-PAC** *(7) 212, Minneapolis, MN*
8. **OWEN HART** *(8) 227, Calgary, Alberta*
9. **D-LO BROWN** *(-) 305, Bronx, NY*
10. **VADER** *(-) 450, Denver, CO*

## NWA

*NWA Champion:*
**DAN SEVERN**
*(C) 265, Detroit, MI*

1. **COLORADO KID** *(2) 231, Denver, CO*
2. **MR. GILLIS** *(4) 221, Vancouver, British Columbia*
3. **ERICH SBRACCIA** *(7) 242, Boston, MA*
4. **DORY FUNK JR.** *(3) 250, Amarillo, TX*
5. **ROD PRICE** *(1) 265, Los Angeles, CA*
6. **BARRY WINDHAM** *(5) 273, Sweetwater, TX*
7. **DOUG GILBERT** *(8) 241, Lexington, TN*
8. **RIP ROGERS** *(9) 239, Cleveland, OH*
9. **LANCE DIAMOND** *(-) 230, Richmond, VA*
10. **PAUL ATLAS** *(-) 219, Reading, PA*

## ECW

*ECW Champion:*
**SHANE DOUGLAS**
*(C) 240, Pittsburgh, PA*

1. **ROB VAN DAM** *(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI*
2. **TAZ** *(2) 248, Red Hook, NY*
3. **SABU** *(-) 225, Bombay*
4. **BAM BAM BIGELOW** *(3) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*
5. **LANCE STORM** *(5) 234, Calgary, Alberta*
6. **MASATO TANAKA** *(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
7. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE** *(6) 225, Waterbury, CT*
8. **CHRIS CANDIDO** *(9) 226, Carteret, NJ*
9. **THE SANDMAN** *(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
10. **SPIKE DUDLEY** *(7) 155, parts unknown*

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

*Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.*

**For period ended July 24, 1998**

**AAA: Champion**—Perro Aguayo; **1**—Abismo Negro; **2**—Pentagon; **3**—Octagon; **4**—Heavy Metal; **5**—Fuerza Guerrera; **6**—Cibernetico; **7**—Sangre Chicana; **8**—Perro Aguayo Jr.; **9**—El Corbade Jr.; **10**—Latin Lover.

**ALL PRO WRESTLING: Champion**—Maxx Justice; **1**—Frank Murdoch; **2**—Robert Thompson; **3**—Michael Modest; **4**—Donovan Morgan; **5**—Tony Jones; **6**—Erin O' Grady; **7**—Vinny Massarro; **8**—Boyce LeGrande; **9**—Jason C. Clay; **10**—Rick Turner.

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion**—Robert Roma; **1**—Don Carson; **2**—Brian Danzig; **3**—Abdullah the Butcher; **4**—Easy Rider; **5**—Daniel Mayes; **6**—Terminator X; **7**—Steve Niles; **8**—Jumpin' Jimmy; **9**—Mauler II; **10**—Bodycount.

**EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion**—Christian Cage; **1**—Glen Osbourne; **2**—Reckless Youth; **3**—Mike Quackenbush; **4**—Lance Diamond; **5**—Inferno Kid; **6**—Devon Storm; **7**—Ace Darling; **8**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **9**—J.R. Ryder; **10**—Twiggy Ramirez.

**FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion**—Joe DeFuria; **1**—Hack Myers; **2**—Duke Drose; **3**—Gator B. Long; **4**—Billy Viper; **5**—Alex G.; **6**—Bobby Rogers; **7**—Scoot Andrews; **8**—Ricky Torres; **9**—Frankie Capone; **10**—Tony Apollo.

**GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion**—Kasey Thunder; **1**—Crusher Kline; **2**—Alexis Machine; **3**—Johnny Rayz; **4**—Brian Fury; **5**—Elvis Elliott; **6**—Mr. Main Event; **7**—Jimi V.;**8**—Carmen Copperpot; **9**—Suicidio; **10**—Dexter Dementia.

**MID-SOUTH PROMOTIONS: Champion**—Kevin Northcutt; **1**—Mr. Wrestling III; **2**—Rod Price; **3**—Elijah Levay; **4**—Guido Buttaffuco; **5**—Crazy Joe; **6**—Kerry Rockwood; **7**—Paul Edwards; **8**—Red Dog; **9**—Stan Sweetan; **10**—Lord Zoltan.

**NATIONAL WRESTLING CONFERENCE: Champion**—Sabu; **1**—Bobby Bradley; **2**—Johnny Paine; **3**—Suicide Kid; **4**—The Russian Brute; **5**—Greg Valentine; **6**—Honky Tonk Man; **7**—Jake Roberts; **8**—Big Q.; **9**—Koko B. Ware; **10**—Mustafa Saad.

**NEW DIMENSION WRESTLING: Champion**—Tully Blanchard; **1**—Buddy Landell; **2**—Rick Link; **3**—Abdullah the Butcher; **4**—Superfly Snuka; **5**—Iron Sheik; **6**—Craig Pittman; **7**—Rick Morton; **8**—Surge; **9**—Will o' the Wisp; **10**—One Man Gang.

**POWER PRO WRESTLING: Champion**—Title Vacant; **1**—Jerry Lawler; **2**—Brian Christopher; **3**—Billy Travis; **4**—Kid Wikkid; **5**—Bill Dundee; **6**—Koko B. Ware; **7**—Derrick King; **8**—Streak; **9**—Ashley Hudson; **10**—Lance Jade.

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion**—Italian Stallion; **1**—George South; **2**—Black Angel; **3**—The Baron; **4**—Super Ninja; **5**—Ripper; **6**—The Breeze; **7**—The Bodyguard; **8**—American G.I.; **9**—Flaming Youth; **10**—Cruel Connection II.

**WINDY CITY PRO: Champion**—Steve Boz; **1**—Greg Valentine; **2**—Sgt. Storm; **3**—Brandon Bishop; **4**—Ripper Manson; **5**—Mike Londos; **6**—Terry Allen; **7**—King Kong Bundy; **8**—Willie Richardson; **9**—Ricky Castro; **10**—Chris Stone.

## NEW JAPAN

*IWGP Champion:*
**TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
*(C) 234, Oita, Japan*

**1—KENSUKE SASAKI**
*(3) 233, Tokyo, Japan*
**2—HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
*(5) 270, Tokyo, Japan*
**3—MASA CHONO**
*(2) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
**4—SHINYA HASHIMOTO**
*(1) 287, Gifu, Japan*
**5—SHIRO KOSHINAKA**
*(4) 225, Tokyo, Japan*
**6—KEIJI MUTO**
*(-) 245, Yamanashi, Japan*
**7—JUSHIN LIGER**
*(8) 206, Hiroshima, Japan*
**8—KOJI KANEMOTO**
*(-) 205, Osaka, Japan*
**9—MICHAEL WALL STREET**
*(-) 248, Syracuse, NY*
**10—BRIAN ADAMS**
*(-) 322, Kona, HI*

## ALL-JAPAN

*Triple Crown Champion:*
**KENTA KOBASHI**
*(C) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan*

**1—JUN AKIYAMA**
*(1) 230, Hiroshima, Japan*
**2—TAKAO OMORI**
*(7) 221, Tokyo, Japan*
**3—TOSHIAKI KAWADA**
*(2) 245, Ashikaga, Japan*
**4—AKIRA TAUE**
*(3) 265, Chichibu, Japan*
**5—JOHNNY ACE**
*(4) 250, San Bernardino, CA*
**6—MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN**
*(8) 245, Honolulu, HI*
**7—GARY ALBRIGHT**
*(5) 343, Billings, MT*
**8—WOLF HAWKFIELD**
*(6) 272, New Port Richey, FL*
**9—HIROSHI HASE**
*(-) 225, Kanazawa, Japan*
**10—TAMON HONDA**
*(10) 191, Tokyo, Japan*

## EMLL

*EMLL Champion:*
**UNIVERSO 2000**
*(C) 215, parts unknown*

**1—CIEN CARAS**
*(8) 235, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico*
**2—RAYO DE JALISCO JR.**
*(5) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico*
**3—ULTIMO DRAGON**
*(6) 175, Mexico City, Mexico*
**4—NEGRO CASAS**
*(4) 175, Mexico City, Mexico*
**5—BLACK WARRIOR**
*(9) 221, Mexico City, Mexico*
**6—ATLANTIS**
*(1) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico*
**7—EL HIJO DEL SANTO**
*(2) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico*
**8—MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**
*(-) 232, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
**9—EMILIO CHARLES JR.**
*(-) 222, Mexico City, Mexico*
**10—FELINO**
*(7) 165, Mexico City, Mexico*

## PROMO AZTECA

*Promo Azteca Champion:*
**KONNAN**
*(C) 237, Mexico City, Mexico*

**1—PIRATA MORGAN**
*(2) 221, Mexico City, Mexico*
**2—TINIEBLAS JR.**
*(3) 256, Montclova, Mexico*
**3—PIERROTH JR.**
*(1) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico*
**4—SILVER KING**
*(4) 215, Mexico City, Mexico*
**5—JUVENTUD GUERRERA**
*(7) 165, Mexico City, Mexico*
**6—BLACK MAGIC**
*(5) 238, London, England*
**7—TARZAN BOY**
*(8) 205, Monterrey, Mexico*
**8—LIZMARK JR.**
*(6) 249, Acapulco, Mexico*
**9—PSICOSIS**
*(9) 200, Tijuana, Mexico*
**10—EL DANDY**
*(10) 235, Jalisco, Mexico*

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

Sting

***Something a little different*** ... We ran into a real problem with this month's tag team ratings. Actually, the problem came up for the first time just days after this year's Great American Bash. We thought that **Sting** and **Kevin Nash** were the WCW World tag team champions. Sting had beaten The Giant at the Bash to gain control of that title, and the next night, he chose Nash as the co-holder of the belts. Simple enough, right?

However, on a few occasions, Sting and **Lex Luger** have come to the ring with the belts and defended them. For some reason, **J.J. Dillon** and the rest of the WCW Executive Committee have allowed this to take place. The WCW broadcasters often refer to it as "**Wolfpac** rules." In other words, NWO Wolfpac is responsible for defending the belts, but it is not particularly important which two members do the defending.

Since Luger and Sting wrestle as a team more often than Nash and Sting do, we wanted to rank them higher in the ratings. But how can we consider Luger and Sting say, the number-one contenders to a title held by Nash and Sting? It makes no sense. So the only logical thing for us to do was to list "NWO Wolfpac" as the top "team" in WCW. The reason you don't see a weight listed under NWO Wolfpac is that the weight depends on which two wrestlers defend the belts, and that can change from night to night.

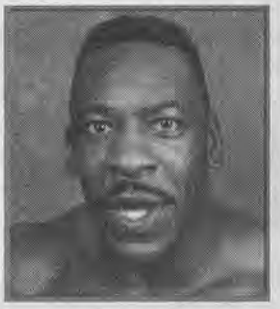
You know, this whole ugly mess could have been avoided if WCW made its wrestlers conform to a very basic rule.

***Deserving of a spot?*** In compiling ratings for this issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, we also ran into one of those problems that comes up from time to time. What happens when a wrestler gets several shots at a major title when, by our estimation, he hasn't really earned them? Does he get a spot in our Top 10? Is he even deserving of a good spot in the rankings for his federation?

**Scott Hall** is the man in question in this case. After a six-week hiatus, he returned to competition on July 6, and **Hollywood Hogan** immediately ordered him to wrestle **Bill Goldberg**, the WCW U.S. heavyweight champion at the time. He did reasonably well, but he was convincingly defeated. Goldberg won the World title the same night.

The next two nights, Hall received shots at the World title and was beaten decisively by Goldberg both nights. So, since Hall is a top contender to the World title by WCW's standards, does he get a spot in our Top 10? We've decided that he doesn't, but since Hall has been looking fairly good in some of his other high-profile matches since his return, he does get a spot in the WCW top 10 for this issue.

***Odds 'n' ends*** ... Because Goldberg had to give up the U.S. championship when he defeated Hogan for the WCW World title on July 6, and no new champion had been determined as of press time, we've placed TV champion **Booker T** in the number-one contender spot for this issue.



Booker T

If it seems like you've read this before, it's because you have: **Chris Candido** and **Lance Storm's** days in the tag team ratings might be numbered. A few months ago, we told you it was because they hated each other. And that was when they were the reigning ECW tag team champions. Storm, of course, was upset that Candido had betrayed him and got him kicked out of **The Triple Threat**.

Toward the end of their reign as champions, Candido and Storm were getting along again. Then, after they lost the belts to **Rob Van Dam** and **Sabu**, the bickering began in earnest again. This time, though, it's Storm who's pointing fingers at Candido and blaming him for losses. In one match this summer, he refused to step into the ring and team with Candido against **The Blue Meanie** and **Super Nova**. Instead, he just sat at ringside and watched the proceedings. He ended up hitting Meanie with a chair so Candido could pin him.

***That's all for this month!*** If you have any thoughts on what you see here on this page or anything in our ratings in general, please feel free to drop up a note. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, BOX 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034 □

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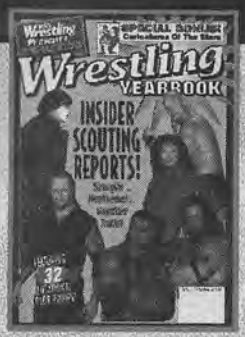


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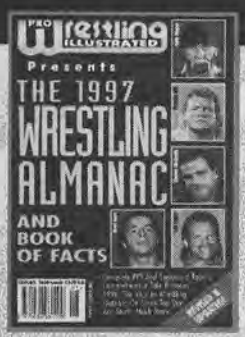


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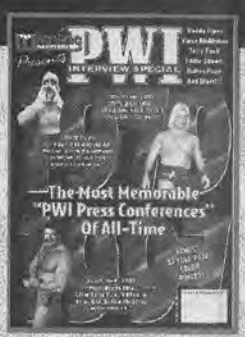


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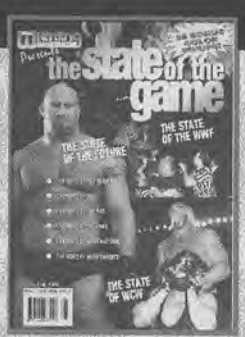


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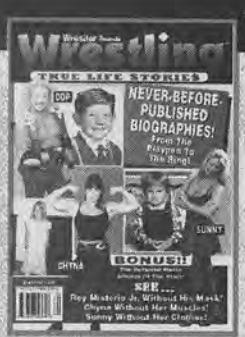


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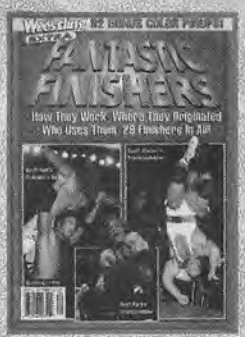


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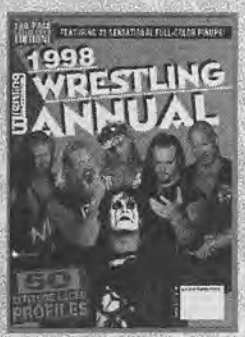


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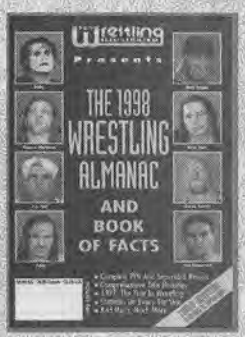


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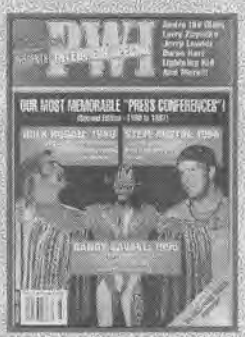


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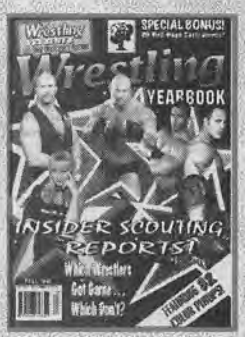


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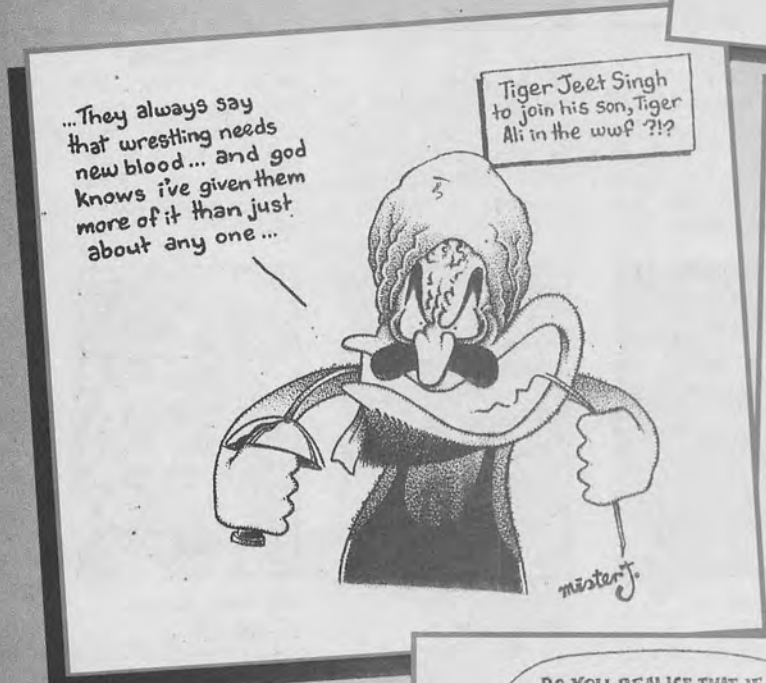
# drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan


...They always say that wrestling needs new blood... and god knows i've given them more of it than just about any one...
Tiger Jeet Singh to join his son, Tiger Ali in the wwf ?!?
mister J.

...THEY SAY THAT IF SOMETHING VANISHES, IT HAS TO END UP SOMEWHERE ...
WADDLE
WADDLE
WOBBLE
WADDLE
WOBBLE
...EVER WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT WEIGHT LOST AT JENNY CRAIG?

...DO YOU REALISE THAT IF WE ADD TOGETHER THE TITLE REIGNS OF MEN ON A MISSION, JIM LONDOS, THE MOUNTIE, TOMMY RICH, BOB HOLLY & 123 KID, ANDRE THE GIANT, THE GODWINNS AND YOURSELF, IT STILL EQUALS LESS THAN A FORTNIGHT.
mister J, about to find out what it's like to be choke-slammed by a p.o'ed ex-champ...

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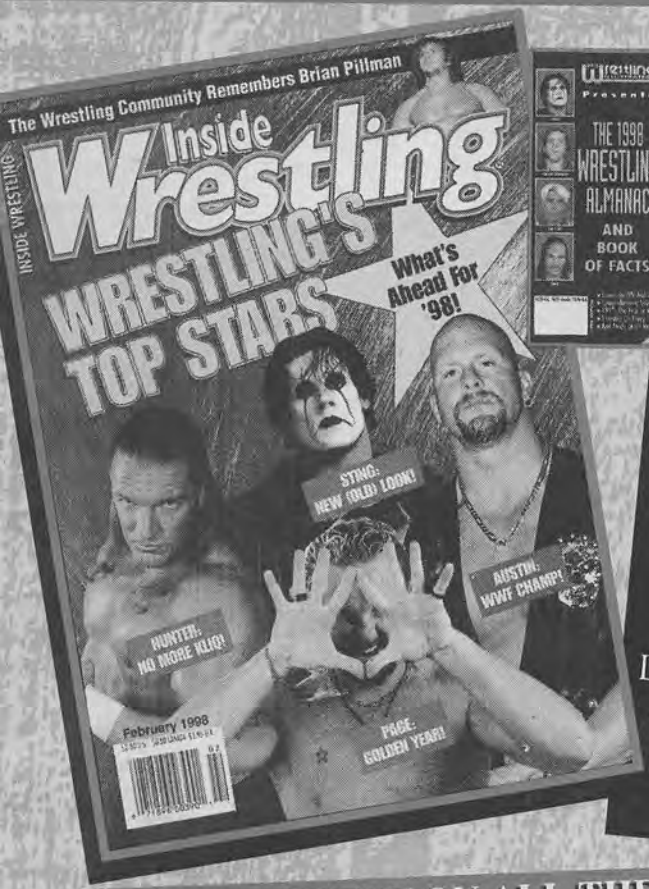


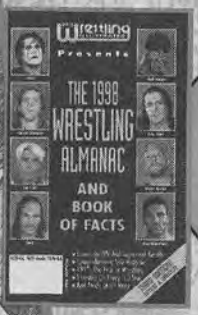


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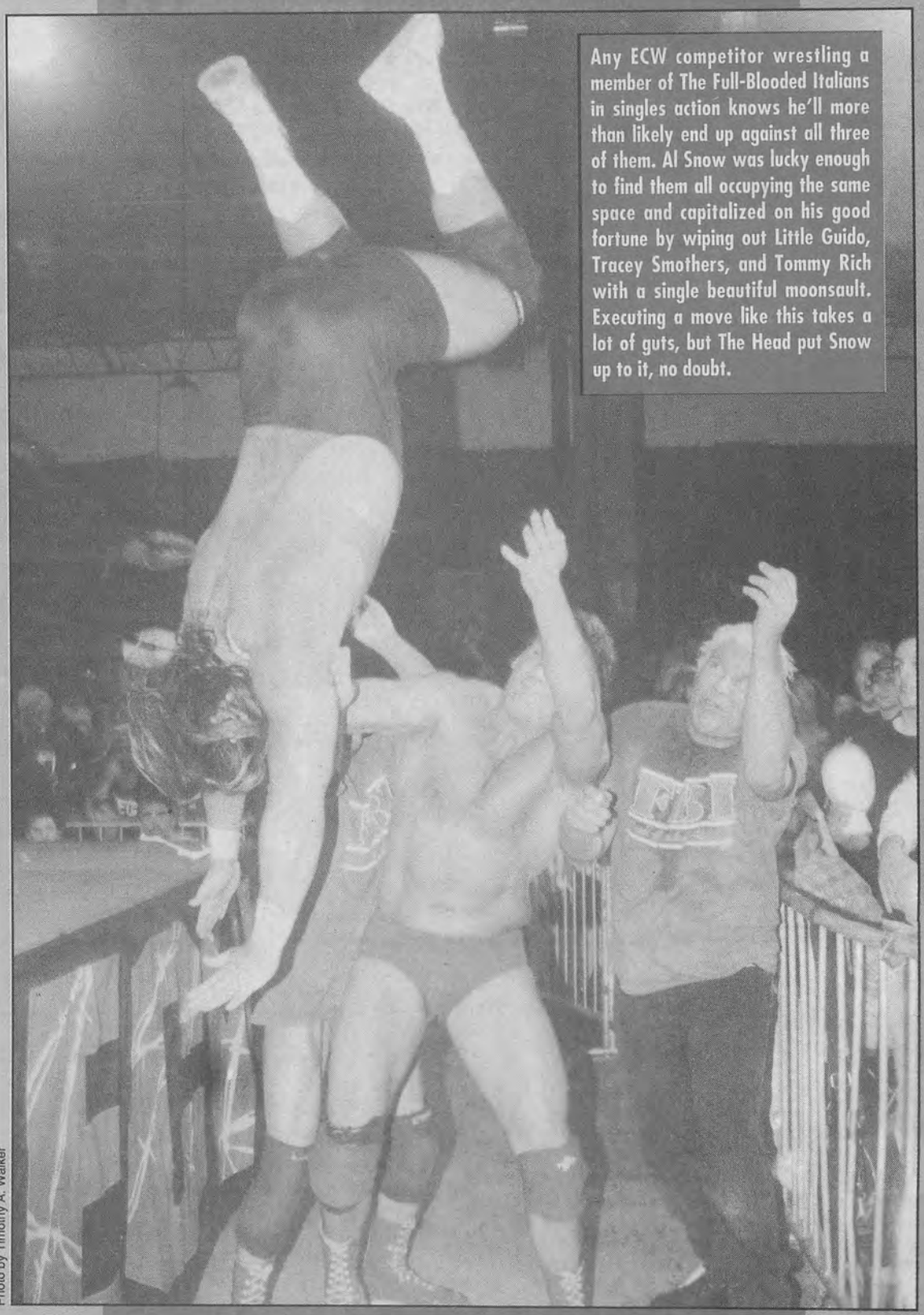

Any ECW competitor wrestling a member of The Full-Blooded Italians in singles action knows he'll more than likely end up against all three of them. Al Snow was lucky enough to find them all occupying the same space and capitalized on his good fortune by wiping out Little Guido, Tracey Smothers, and Tommy Rich with a single beautiful moonsault. Executing a move like this takes a lot of guts, but The Head put Snow up to it, no doubt.

Photo by Timothy A. Walker

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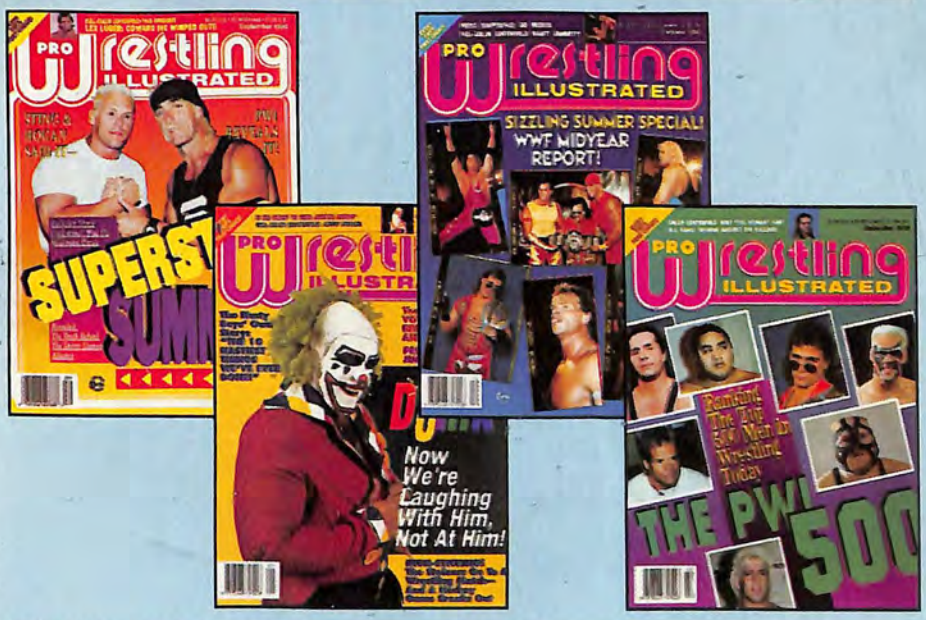


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